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University chiefs warn on cuts

Students to face £300 entrance fee

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES are to abandon their commitment to the principle of free higher education and impose a £300 entry fee under plans disclosed last night.

Vice-chancellors said that after six years of funding cuts and the doubling of student rolls, they had no alternative but to seek a fresh source of cash to safeguard standards.

Under the proposals published yesterday by the Association of University Teachers and the Association of University Principals, about 140,000 of the 270,000 students starting higher education next year would have to pay £300 before being admitted to lectures. Those qualifying for full grants would be exempt.

The charge, which would generate £42 million, will be considered by the leaders of all 105 universities on Friday and if it is approved, governing bodies will decide how to introduce it. Some former polytechnics are likely to oppose the idea, however, fearing that it will deter students.

Last night the proposal met furious opposition from students and politicians. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, said that the Government would not be prepared to abandon quality, so we face top-up tuition fees. Labour does not believe such fees are a sustainable or equitable answer to the funding crisis, but we recognise that the blame lies squarely with the Government.

Students expressed outrage and said they would resist the plan. Jim Murphy, president of the National Union of

Students said: "This would have a severe impact on access to education, particularly for students from poorer backgrounds and mature students. We do not blame the vice-chancellors for being angry and for looking for drastic solutions to what has become a crisis, but we do not think finding money from students is the answer."

The Association of University Teachers said a signing-on fee set a dangerous precedent. David Triesman, its general secretary, said: "Once this form of top-up fee is introduced, it will become permanent. It will remove from the Government any need to create a more viable funding system." He called for a Royal Commission to investigate other methods of financing higher education.

But Professor Gareth Roberts, the Sheffield University Vice-Chancellor who chairs the committee that is calling for the charge, said a national flat-rate fee was preferable to the alternative of individual

universities setting their figure to top up the tuition fees paid directly by the Government.

Professor Roberts said: "We are very proud of the higher education system in this country and in order to preserve it we have no alternative. We have had to endure five years of cuts and have the prospect of three years more after the Budget. It is a question of 'enough is enough'."

"We are pleading with all the political parties to recognise we need more money. If they do not contribute from the public purse, the only way around it is to find students contributing themselves."

Yesterday's proposal reflects the sense of betrayal felt by universities. Since 1989, they have doubled student numbers in line with government policy, but over the same period, funding has been cut by 28 per cent per student. Last November's Budget reduced income by a further 7 per cent, with another 6 per cent cut planned for 1997-98.

An entry fee would make up only about a third of this year's £107 million cut in capital funding. Vice-chancellors may also withdraw staff from a range of outside work, including quality assessment, but not external marking.

Vice-chancellors would withdraw their threat if next November's Budget halted the cuts scheduled for 1997 and restored some of the money lost this year.

Universities also want a commitment to the reform of student funding by 1999. They would prefer to see students contributing to their education with loans that would be repaid through the tax system once their incomes reached a certain level.



"Wonderful news: Timothy's failed his entrance exam"



Detective Superintendent Tony Rogers, who is leading the inquiry, with a photofit of the rape suspect

'Protected' woman is raped

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A WOMAN placed under police protection after a man stalked her for five months suffered a two-hour rape ordeal at her home.

The married mother in her thirties was so terrified by the attack two weeks ago that she was unable to give the police a full account of her ordeal for several days.

Cambridgeshire police said yesterday that they were "comfortable" with the level of protection she had been given and the Police Complaints Authority said it had no plans to look into the case. But Women Against Rape, a lobby group that offers advice to women under threat, called for an independent inquiry.

The woman's ordeal began last September when the man, who called himself Chuck, approached her as she drank

morning coffee in a hotel near Huntingdon. She rejected his advances, thinking he was simply being friendly. After that, he followed her from work to her home near Huntingdon, watched her house, wrote threatening letters and made nuisance telephone calls, some threatening.

On December 17, as she returned from Christmas shopping, he attacked her as she unloaded bags from her car. She dropped the bags, breaking her Christmas presents, and confronted him, only to be punched in the head, suffering a bad cut.

She made contact with the police for the first time. However, she continued to see him watching her around Huntingdon over Christmas and the new year. On one occasion he pulled up behind her with

in seconds of her car breaking down and offered to help. He drove an old blue Vauxhall Cavalier with a Y in the registration number and was a passenger in a dark off-road vehicle.

Detective Superintendent Tony Rogers, who is leading the inquiry, said: "She spotted the man on several occasions in Huntingdon, once as he was leaving a town centre bookmaker, on another occasion when he was with a woman walking a black dog."

"On neither occasion did the man speak to her. However, on January 10 the woman was at home around lunchtime when the same man entered her home and carried out a sexual attack on her which I can only describe as frenzied. As he left, he said he would kill her if she contacted us."

The woman was taken to hospital and it was more than a week before she could tell officers what had happened to her. Mr Rogers said she had been given protection and had been told that she should not be alone. He said he could not disclose the exact nature of the protection offered, saying only that it was thought to be appropriate for a stalker.

All the police would say was that her home had been fitted with some security equipment, which was thought to be working at the time of the rape, but she had not been given round-the-clock protection. "We took the necessary security measures to try to protect her," Mr Rogers said.

"We were happy with the arrangements and so was she. The only complaint she has

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Mr Major used his lecture to a Tory audience in London to extend his charge of hypocrisy against Labour from education to crime.

But the clashes over crime provoked anger in the criminal justice system last night. Mary Honeyball, the general secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said: "Bickering about who is, and who isn't the victims' best friend turns a serious issue into a meaningless contest about who can be most punitive towards offenders. Tory and Labour MPs are reducing one of the most vital policy issues to the level of a playground shouting match."

Mr Major declared that law

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France to end Pacific tests

President Jacques Chirac announced an end to France's nuclear weapon tests in the South Pacific last night after six underground blasts in the past five months. In a short televised statement, he said France would take initiatives on disarmament and European defence in the coming weeks.

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Soldiers reach bodies in minefield

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Engineer bomb disposal experts yesterday worked their way "inch by inch" through a minefield and thick snow to reach three British soldiers killed by a land-mine in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina on Sunday.

The dangerous mission involved the most primitive form of mine-clearing as the Spartan armoured vehicle, which was destroyed in the explosion, had veered off the tarmac road into an unmarked minefield. Ammunition stored in the Spartan also detonated.

With none of the warring

factions admitting to having placed mines in that spot, the small team of Sappers from 49 Field Squadron EOD had no alternative but to probe the ground on their hands and knees for other plastic mines. The usual method, called hand-breaching, is to use a fibreglass rod or a bayonet to prod the earth. Snow made the task even more hazardous.

Although the British force of 15,000 troops has a large contingent of Royal Engineers, they have not come equipped with sophisticated mine-clearing equipment, such as the huge armoured bulldozers used in the Gulf War. The Dayton peace agreement which ended the war

makes the warring parties responsible for mine-clearing. Last night, after an operation lasting the whole day, the three bodies and the Spartan vehicle were recovered.

The Spartan, a comparatively lightweight armoured vehicle of about eight tonnes, ran over a mine designed to cripple a 60-tonne tank, like the British Challenger which is also in Bosnia. Spartans are supposed to have an advantage over the heavier vehicles because they are designed for high mobility and have a low weight ratio: they apply a pressure of only 2.2 lbs on any one spot as they proceed. However, the mine was believed to be a Yugoslav-made

TMRP-6 anti-tank device which contains more than 11 lbs of high explosive. Buried beneath the surface, it has a single pressure point which normally protrudes. In this case, however, it was concealed by the snow.

The Croats, Muslims and Serbs would all have had access to mines of this type. The minefield is in an area previously occupied by the Serbs which was over-run by Muslim/Croat Federation troops in the last weeks of war.

The Spartan was travelling along a road 15 miles south of the town of Mrkonjic Grad in

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Courage praised, page 5

Lottery winners go back to work

Thirty-three staff from Camden Council's Homeless Persons Unit in North London who shared a £10 million lottery win at the weekend all reported for work yesterday. Two other individual £10 million winners also said they would return to work.

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Tube fire award

Ron Lipsius, a musician who was badly burnt in the King's Cross Underground fire in which 31 people died, was awarded £650,000 in agreed High Court damages.

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National Grid wins power cuts battle

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY workers last night worked flat-out to avert power cuts in the face of a predicted record high demand.

With temperatures across Britain rising slightly and nearly all power stations on standby, the National Grid said it had more than met peak demand during the crucial hour of 5pm to 6pm.

There had been fears that, with Arctic-style weather gripping Britain, electricity demand last night would peak at more than 49,000 megawatts in England and Wales.

3,000 Mw higher than normal. But a spokesman for National Grid said they had asked generators to bring enough stations on line to meet the heavy demand.

About 80 households in Aberllynnydd, Gwent, were cut off yesterday morning when a generator failed.

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre said temperatures today and tomorrow would be slightly warmer than yesterday.

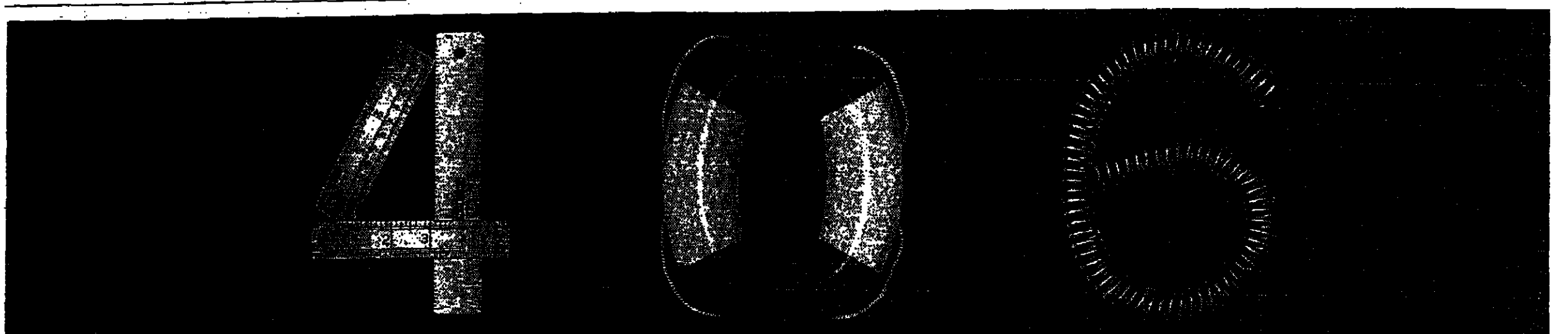
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Fun in the House, no fun for the homeless

As news reaches us that Mars may contain primitive forms of life, Jacques Arnold (C, Gravesend), scrapping yesterday with John Prescott, demonstrated that the House of Commons already does. Batten down the hatches: we must prepare for much more of this. Ascending the stairs at Westminster yesterday, your sketchwriter met a group of excited colleagues descending. "You missed Hezza!" they cried.

The Deputy PM had been on the warpath in the Chamber against Labour's alleged double standards. He had been in fine form. Apparently I missed "hypocrisy" and "accelerated hypocrisy". It was, said a colleague, at the same

time rowdy and perfectly convivial. The two sides are settling in for a long election campaign, but the mood, though belligerent, was jolly. You will never understand the Commons until you catch the wink which accompanies most (but not all) of the abuse.

All good clean fun? Well, no evil is done by putting up Heseltine and Prescott for a half-hour Monday curtain-raiser. *Star Wars* fans would like it to a spat between Han Solo and his Wookiee.

True, MPs and their audience learnt nothing at Questions, but we were at least entertained; and the new mood says something, I suppose, about the Opposition's new brio and the Gov-



POLITICAL SKETCH

ernment's new confidence. "Nobody," said Heseltine to Peter Mandelson (that Darth Vader of the Labour modernisers) "has brought a greater professional skill to the de-basement of British political life than you." Harmless stuff.

But after Questions the jousting continued. The afternoon's business was the second reading of the Housing Bill. John Gummer, the Environment Secretary (the Cabinet's R2D2 to John Major's C3PO) opened the debate. It is the only full debate the Bill

will receive. Mr Gummer spoke about the Bill itself for about 30 seconds. Then he launched into an attack on Labour for its opposition, 17 years ago, to the "right-to-buy" legislation. They "say one thing, then do another", yapped Gummer, doubtless under orders to maintain the Tories' "hypocrisy" theme in any way he could.

Labour began to yap in reply, feeding a gratified Mr Gummer's sense of personal significance. His yaps intensified. Why had Labour prom-

ised a policy document on housing, yet failed to deliver it? Why were they dissimulating over their proposals for releasing the receipts of council house sales?

"He's misleading the House," growled Frank Dobson, the Opposition's chief environment spokesman, but he was ordered by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, to rephrase.

"He's made it up!" yapped Dobson. "I haven't!" yapped Gummer.

"I hope we can get to the second reading of this Bill, actually," sighed Miss Boothroyd.

Some hope. Gummer now tried to nip the Liberal Democrats' Simon Hughes in the

tail, with quotations from a leaked Liberal document criticising their own policies. Then he took another bite at Labour, menacing Glenda Jackson (Hampstead and Highgate) whose complaint against the merging of multiple housing waiting lists into a single list appeared to be that this would result in a longer list.

"Wrong again!" yapped Dobson at Gummer.

"Oh no, I'm afraid you're wrong," yapped Gummer.

"Giggling oafs," said Dobson of the Tory benches...

And so it continued, on an exceptionally cold afternoon. Up on the Strand in their cardboard boxes, the homeless will have felt it. What a way to debate a housing Bill.

Labour unlikely to appeal over shortlists

Labour's National Executive Committee is expected to decide tomorrow not to appeal against a Leeds industrial tribunal's ruling that the party's all-women shortlists for parliamentary candidates are illegal.

Tony Blair is believed to have received legal advice, after the tribunal produced its full written judgement last week, that the party has little chance of winning an appeal. The Labour leadership is expected to recommend that the party should not appeal.

Several NEC members are likely to assert that that would amount to ditching the aim of achieving equal representation in the House of Commons. Harriet Harman, who has led calls for an appeal, is expected to argue that the 14 constituencies who had been expected to draw up all-women shortlists should still be encouraged to do so.

PM's Ulster pledge

John Major will today try to reassure nationalists in Northern Ireland that an elected body would not be Unionist-dominated. He will tell John Hume, the SDLP leader, that the plan would be implemented only with the agreement of all parties. But the Prime Minister will say that the proposals are workable and he will try to quash any threat of a nationalist boycott of elections.

The Government is to end the 23-year ban on demonstrations in Trafalgar Square over Ulster.

Keays action considered
The Official Solicitor is considering whether action should be taken against newspapers in the wake of coverage naming Sara Keays and her daughter in spite of a High Court "gagging" order. A spokesman for Peter Harris, who represented the interests of Ms Keays's daughter when the courts imposed the order in 1993, said that Mr Harris was reviewing press coverage and was "considering his position". The Official Solicitor has power to bring contempt of court proceedings.

Care scheme criticised

Care in the community is so badly organised that it wastes both money and resources and inevitably causes tragedies, according to a report issued today by four of the housing associations most involved in looking after vulnerable people. Calling for the National Audit Office to examine the aims and value for money of community care, the report says the government departments involved are so poorly co-ordinated it is impossible to deliver services effectively to those who most need them.

Bearded ex-Wren wins

A bearded former Wren aged 53, from Kent, won leave to seek a judicial review of a decision by the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, refusing to allow him to be re-registered as a man after undergoing "gender reassignment" treatment. At present, regulations in Britain prevent birth certificates being amended. Two male-to-female applicants are bringing similar test cases. Lawyers say that the interpretation of the law is out of step with current medical knowledge.

Island school call

Islanders on Graemsey, the least accessible of the inhabited Orkney Islands, are campaigning to save their school which currently has only one pupil, Kevin Pepper. 9, faces a daily trip on a new regular ferry service across Scapa Flow to the Stromness school on the Orkney mainland if the school closes. Officials from Orkney Islands Council have to cut £356,000 from the education budget. They are to meet tomorrow to debate the possible closure of the school which costs £45,000 to run.

Women damage jet

A £12 million Hawk jet, due to be sold to the Indonesian Government, was severely damaged yesterday when three women broke into the British Aerospace testing centre at Warton, Lancashire. The women, who were being questioned by police last night, said they were protesting at arms sales to Indonesia. They claimed they had spent two hours damaging the Hawk with hammers and went undetected until they telephoned a news agency to report their actions.

Scottish meat jobs go

One of Scotland's leading meat producers called in the liquidators yesterday blaming the health scare over BSE for its loss of business. The closure of Buchanan Meat Producers Ltd, based in Turriff, Grampian, will mean the loss of at least 250 jobs. Alex Salmond, the leader of the Scottish National Party, said the closure was a catastrophic blow to the local economy. "Job losses on this scale in a small community are equivalent to the loss of thousands of jobs in an urban conurbation."

RAF jobs at risk

Up to 400 RAF flight-simulator technicians are expected to lose their jobs in September at Lossiemouth and Kinloss in Grampian, Leeming in North Yorkshire, Valley in Anglesey and Marham and Colishall in Norfolk, when their work is privatised. The RAF hopes that a significant number will be re-employed by the contractor. A formal announcement is expected shortly. Dr John Reid, Labour's defence spokesman, accused the MoD of short-term thinking. *RAF types, page 5*

Murder suspect held

A 19-year-old student was being questioned yesterday by detectives investigating the rape and murder of Claire Hood, a 15-year-old girl whose body was found in woodland near her Cardiff home last January. He is from the housing estate where Claire lived. Forensic scientists have the killer's genetic "fingerprint" but police refuse to say whether the student was among about 2,000 local men who provided blood samples for DNA testing last year.

Winning photographer

Adrian Brooks, a photographer for *The Times*, was named last night as the winner of the features category in the 1995 British Picture Editors' Awards. More than 8,000 pictures were entered for the awards, which are the major accolades for British press photographers. Mr Brooks, 32, entered a portfolio depicting the plight of young victims of the war in Afghanistan. The awards ceremony was held at Guildhall, central London.

Burglar freed over juror

A man jailed for 33 months in Stoke-on-Trent for burglary and assault on police was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday because one of the jury was the son of a court usher who had been regularly calling him as stand-in if the jury panel was one short. Antony Longworth, representing Frederick Salt, 25, said the usher's son had become "a professional juror" and was wrongly a part of the machinery of justice.

Protests secure amendment to Bill

Police assured of primacy over MI5 in fighting crime

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

THE Government has bowed to protests from police and opposition politicians for clear legal controls over MI5's new role in fighting organised crime. Ministers will today announce changes to the Security Service Bill, making it clear that MI5 will only operate in tackling gangs and drug dealing in support of police.

The amendment will be tabled as the Bill, which gives the security service a role in top level policing, begins its detailed scrutiny by Commons committee. It is likely to receive all-party support.

The amendment, which clarifies that the 43 police forces in England and Wales remain in the vanguard in the fight against organised crime, follows widespread anxiety among MPs that police primacy might be undermined.

Earlier this month, chief constables at a private conference expressed fears that MI5 would be beyond police scrutiny and accountability. There has been a flurry of high level contacts between the Home Office, police and opposition MPs over the past ten days to

try to overcome the problem. One draft amendment drawn up by the Home Office was rejected by police as not being clear enough. Today's amendment is intended to reassure Parliament that MI5 can only operate in support of the activities of the police and other law enforcement agencies, such as Customs.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said last night: "It is absolutely crucial it is made clear that police are in overall charge. It is the key issue. The security service should undertake no operation in fighting organised crime without the explicit authority of the police and another law enforcement agency."

The Bill, presented last month, said that "it shall also be the function of the Service to act in support of the prevention and detection of crime". The wording alarmed police chiefs who were not reassured by statements from Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, that this would be enough to give police primacy over the security service. They

wanted the Bill to read that the service would act in support of "the police and other law enforcement agencies".

Police also want it made clear that there will be some measure of accountability for MI5 operations and that the security service will be "tasked" by police.

One senior police source said yesterday: "The Home Office was surprised at the degree of concern on this matter. Clearly attempts are being made to defend it. They are moving ground, coming towards us."

The dispute is the latest round in a territorial war between MI5 and the police. Since the end of the Cold War, MI5 has been looking for new work to avoid budget cuts and redundancies.

Two years ago there were battles within Whitehall over the decision to give MI5 the lead role in terrorist intelligence. With the ceasefire in Northern Ireland, MI5 faced the loss of more work and argued its expertise in long-term analysis would be vital in fighting organised crime.



Lord and Lady Spencer: back together in a new home, but for how long?

Spencers reunite to leave Althorp for South Africa

By EMMA WILKINS AND JOANNA PITMAN

EARL SPENCER, brother of the Princess of Wales, has moved to South Africa with his family after a demanding year running the family estate in Northamptonshire.

Lord Spencer, 31, has found a new home in Constantia, a prosperous suburb of Cape Town. His wife, Victoria, 29, who has received treatment for depression, will share the house while their four children settle into schools.

It is not clear whether the couple, who separated in April, are attempting a permanent reconciliation. They are both devoted to their children: Kitty, 5, the three-year-old twins Eliza and Katya, and Louis, 22 months.

While fond of Althorp, the 121-room house where the Princess of Wales spent her childhood, Lord Spencer partly blames the duties of running the estate for the

disintegration of his marriage.

It is unlikely that he would completely sever his links with Althorp by selling the house and its 13,000 acres of farmland. The tax bill following a sale of the £69 million estate would be huge. A further obstacle is that part of his inheritance is controlled by family trustees.

Lord Spencer had planned to spend the early years of his marriage travelling across America. The couple's intentions changed when his wife became pregnant with their first child and they settled in the Salomony, a house on the Althorp estate.

The death of his father in 1992 curtailed Lord Spencer's abiding dreams of travelling abroad. He took on the estate, redecorated the house and tried to establish a market for corporate hospitality.

The house, which is avail-

able for £3,500 a day, is run by David Horton-Parkes, a corporate hospitality expert, and the estate is run by an experienced land agent.

The Earl of Leicester, one of the estate trustees, said that Lord Spencer had experienced a tough year and deserved an extended break.

Constantia is a small pocket still embodying the white man's dream. A Promised Land of wealth, health and beauty where black people spend their lives working silently and gratefully to make the lives of whites more comfortable.

With the Atlantic Ocean on one side and on the other vineyards and ranches against a background of wild hills, the effect is Beverly Hills and the Rockies rolled into one.

Earl Spencer's neighbours include Mark Thatcher and Wilbur Smith, the writer.

Parties bicker over crime

Continued from page 1
and order was another subject where Labour's words were divorced from its actions. While Mr Blair spoke about being "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime", the Tories believed that being tough on crime meant being tough on the criminal.

Shipping short of Mr Heseltine's accusation on Sunday - repeated yesterday by the Home Secretary - that Labour was "on the side of the villain", Mr Major listed ar-

ees, such as raising maximum sentences and giving police fresh powers to deal with riots, where Labour had been opposed. "Day by day, Labour show themselves in their real colours... it's the colour of envy and hypocrisy." He challenged Labour to back the tougher sentencing proposals.

The row overshadowed Mr Blair's attempt to move the education debate away from the future of the grammar schools and on to standards. In the Commons, Mr Heseltine

seized on the trailers of Mr Blair's speech to accuse Labour of "accelerated hypocrisy". But Mr Prescott said that since the Tories took office, burglary had increased by 160 per cent. "That's the real Tory record," Mr Heseltine retorted that spending on law and order had more than doubled in real terms.

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Police hunt rapist

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made is against the rapist. It is not the time now to have an inquiry into our methods. The time now is to catch this man.

"The attack was planned, depraved and one of the most violent I have seen in many years as a detective. This man is extremely dangerous. He has harassed, stalked and now brutally raped one woman, leaving her life in pieces."

"It has taken some time for our officers to get all the details from her. She has been badly injured and she had been badly traumatised. He must be caught before he has a chance to do this to another woman. We were confident we had got the appropriate police response and we were confident as well that we would ultimately find who was responsible," he said.

Sergeant Heather Thompson, one of the police officers

counselling the victim, said: "I am hopeful that with professional help she will be able to overcome this and that she will be able to pick up her life with her children."

The police said that the attacker spoke with a local accent and told the victim that his interests included sport, football and drinking beer.

He is aged 28 to 30, six foot tall, of medium build with dark brown eyes, surrounded by laughter lines, and brown shoulder-length hair in a layered style. He wore blue jeans and a white polo shirt, blue round-neck pullover, grey training shoes and an earring in his left ear.

Detectives know he likes to play slot machines and spends some mornings socialising in local hotels, particularly on Sunday mornings. He may have some association with singles clubs in the area.

- September: stalker first approaches woman in hotel in Huntingdon area. She rejects his advances. He calls himself Chuck, has local accent and says his interests are sport and beer.
- September-December: follows her home and to work, telephones and sends letters, some threatening. She does not tell police.
- December 17: man attacks her after following her to her house north of Huntingdon. She confronts him. He punches her, causing a "nasty" cut. She tells police for first time, who give her protection.
- Christmas-New Year: she sees him several times around Huntingdon, once with a woman walking a black dog. Also sees him driving an old, blue Vauxhall Cavalier with a Y in the registration and as a passenger in a blue or black four-wheel-drive off-road vehicle.
- January 16, lunchtime: he rapes her at home in a frenzied attack, spending up to two hours in house. She reports attack immediately.
- January 16-29: woman takes a few days to give a clear account. Police try to trace the attacker without publicising details.
- January 29: police release first details of the rape and say they are "comfortable" with the level of protection. Artist's impression is issued. Attacker described as aged 28 to 30, 6ft, medium build, brown eyes and brown, shoulder-length hair, crinkled face. He wore blue jeans, white polo shirt, blue pullover and grey training shoes. Earring in left ear.

Level of protection depends on budget

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE commanders try to tailor protection measures according to the needs of victims, the level of threat and budget restrictions. Fewer than 30 people receive 24-hour protection by teams of armed officers. These are members of the Royal Family and VIPs whose lives are guarded by Scotland Yard officers at a cost of more than £50 million a year.

Witnesses who are prepared to give Queen's evidence or jurors in sensitive cases will be guarded round the clock. In some cases witnesses have been moved to safe houses. Police have also organised changes of identity for key informants who have given court evidence. They will be given help to find new homes

and work, and will have the telephone number of a police officer.

When a member of the public faces a threat, cash-strapped local forces will be more circumspect. An officer may be placed on guard, but only for a short period. They may give the potential victim a home alarm linked to a police station.

The alarm is usually placed prominently in the house so that the victim can reach it quickly. Sometimes the alarms will also include a klaxon or a piercing sound to scare the attacker off. If the threat is rated as very low, police will give reassurance, which might involve extra patrols at night or provision of a special police telephone number.

Calais begins with sea...

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This is rewarding too, say £10 m lottery winners keeping their jobs to help homeless

The millionaire life? We are working on it

BY JOANNA BAILE

THIRTY-THREE council workers who shared a £10 million National Lottery win at the weekend all turned up for work yesterday, helping the homeless.

Across the country, two individual £10 million winners — a male nurse and an accounts clerk — both also said they would be continuing their jobs.

Members of the council syndicate from Camden Council's Homeless Persons unit in North London will each receive £304,724. Two said they would buy new homes for themselves. Most refused to talk about the win, but four women members came forward to dispel reports that they would all resign.

Margery West, an assessment officer, said: "We are all very committed to our jobs. It's very stressful, but our clients need us, and it can be very rewarding."

Asked whether any would be donating some of their winnings to the homeless, Mrs West said: "We will have to wait and see, but charity begins at home. I have a family and a brother in Canada who could do with some money."

The unit manager, Christine Winter, added: "We are all still thinking about what we are going to do with it. It hasn't really sunk in yet." The



Jackie Greene: not planning to resign

council's leader, Richard Arthur, said: "We are thrilled for all the staff. There couldn't be a more deserving group, and we're delighted they're all at work today, which underlines their dedication."

He took the opportunity to add: "It is a little ironic that the £10 million win is half as big again as the £6.8 million Government capital allocation this year to deal with the huge task of renovating all the council's property, including 29,000 homes and more than 50 schools."

Mrs West, who lives in London, and is married with two grown-up children and a grandson, said: "I will be buying a new house, a new car, and my whole family will be able to go to Canada for my

niece's wedding and then for a holiday. I want to move to Camden so I won't have so far to travel to work. My husband isn't keen, though, because he hates moving."

Maria Martinez, 40, a visiting officer who lives in London with her 15-year-old daughter, Arantxa, but originally came from Madrid, said: "I think I'm going to do something outrageous like a bungee jump. I'll also be going to see my family in Spain and I am happy that I will now be able to give my daughter a good education."

Philomena Kelly, a 39-year-old assessment officer, who is married with three young sons, said: "I just want to clear my bills."

Most of the syndicate — 27 women and six men — met on Sunday for a champagne celebration. Mrs Winter said: "There were a lot of tears, and we all toasted each other's good health. But there was no doubt in any of our minds that we were going to turn up for work."

The group began playing the lottery by subscription last autumn, and chose 33 lines which they pay for 26 weeks in advance. Miss Martinez said: "We started off collecting money every week, but decided it was easier to do it on subscription."

Only seven members of staff declined to join the syndicate at the very beginning, and they were said by



The perfect antidote to the Monday morning feeling for Margery West, Philomena Kelly, Christine Winter and Maria Martinez

the four women to be "absolutely delighted" for their colleagues. The women's homeless clients were also in a congratulatory mood yesterday, despite their predicament, according to Mrs Winter. "They were very pleased, and many congratulated us. Although some of them did not like the press attention very much."

Staff in the unit, which deals with more than 2,000 applications from homeless

people a year, were highly commended early this year by the Cabinet Office and awarded a Charter Mark in recognition of high standards and efficiency.

The £40 million rollover jackpot was shared four ways. One winner, Jackie Greene, is the niece of Michael Le Vell, who plays Kevin Webster in ITV's *Coronation Street*. She said: "I have a large family and am planning to sort them out first." Miss Greene, 26, of

Oldham, Greater Manchester, said that after she learnt of her win "I went straight home and rang all my family and they came around. Then I rang my uncle Mike and he suggested I go to a hotel. We had champagne and room service. I didn't sleep that night."

Miss Greene plans to return to her job in accounts at a motor dealer's. "I am not going to resign. They would be a bit stuck if I walked out."

John McGuinness, 32, a nurse, won the third £10,055,900 share. He said he was thinking of going back to work at Law Hospital in Strathclyde, where he is a theatre nurse, but has been given time off to think things over.

"I need to do something with my time. I can't just sit around," said Mr McGuinness, of Shotts, near Glasgow. Since his marriage broke down a year ago, he has

lived with his parents in their one-bedroom house and slept on a lilo. He admitted that he had no plans for how to spend the money but simply wanted to make sure his family was happy.

His daughter Lauren, 7, who lives with his estranged wife Hazel, told him she wanted a present for £25 but she hadn't told him exactly what it was.

The fourth ticket holder is remaining anonymous.

Pilot of charter jet carrying 220 dies at controls

BY EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A PILOT collapsed and died with a suspected heart attack as he was preparing to land a jet with 220 British holiday-makers on board at Malaga in southern Spain.

Roger Attenborough, 54, was lining up the Boeing 757 in poor weather for the landing. The first officer was forced to take over the controls and took the jet down while an air hostess gave heart massage to the captain. The passengers on the Sunday night Britannia Airways charter flight BY476A from Luton were unaware what was happening in the cockpit.

Air traffic controllers arranged for an ambulance to be waiting when the plane touched down, but Mr Attenborough was dead on arrival at hospital in Torremolinos.

The first officer was yesterday preparing a flight report to be sent to the Civil Aviation Authority.

The CAA insists on medicals for commercial pilots every six months. Britannia Airways said captains aged over 40 had their hearts tested with an electrocardiograph every year, and over 50 twice a year. Mr Attenborough passed his last test in September. He lived in Kempston, Bedfordshire, with his wife Nikki and sons Royd and Gordon. He joined the

airline in 1969 and had been a captain for 20 years.

Royd Attenborough, 25, a trained pilot, said: "The only consolation is that he died flying. He lived for his flying, it was all he ever wanted to do all his life. He died doing what he loved."

"Dad passed all his six-month medicals with flying colours. Fortunately he died with no risk to the passengers thanks to the professionalism and training of his co-pilot."

Paco Esteban, duty manager at Malaga airport, said yesterday: "Fifteen minutes before it was due to land, we received a radio call from the Britannia Airways plane saying that the pilot was feeling ill. The co-pilot had taken over and an air hostess was giving the pilot heart massage. We immediately started an emergency drill and had an ambulance waiting."

A spokesman for the Clinica Santa Elena in Torremolinos said: "We think he had a heart attack. We informed the judicial authorities and there will be an autopsy."

One of the passengers, Elsie Jenner, from Lymington in Hampshire, was on her first flight when she heard an appeal for a doctor. "A woman did get up and go up front, but we did not know what was going on," she said from her hotel in Fuengirola.



Derek Jennings and Simon Brice, the farmer. The fruit is named after Dr Jennings's granddaughter, Terri-Louise

'Raspberry of the future' provides a juicy cash crop for its creator

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A BRITISH grower has succeeded in developing a raspberry twice as big and juicy as any of its rivals. The new variety is so impressive that Marks & Spencer has taken an exclusive contract on this year's crop, and promised to pay a 20 per cent premium above what it pays for other varieties. By November the fruit could be selling for as much as 20p a berry.

Dr Derek Jennings, 66, known for creating the tayberry and now semi-retired, has named his new variety Terri-Louise, after his granddaughter aged four.

Terri-Louise raspberries weigh more than seven

grams, compared with the four grams of the average raspberry. The new berry is a late-cropping variety, starting to bear fruit in September as other varieties begin to fade. In trials last year it was being picked under polythene as late as December 1.

Dr Jennings bred raspberries and other soft fruit for 32 years at the Scottish Crop Research Institute, near Dundee, and introduced varieties such as Glen Clova, Glen Moy and Glen Prosen, which have become standard. After retiring in 1989 he was taken into partnership by Simon Brice, a Kent fruit farmer keen to improve his crops and extend his growing season.

"I was given a glasshouse

and a polythene tunnel and told to see what I could do," Dr Jennings said yesterday at his cottage in Oldham, Kent. Mr Brice and Dr Jennings have also signed a contract with Sweetbriar, an American company which markets raspberries across the United States.

If the variety succeeds in trials at Sweetbriar's farms in California, the two men will collect a royalty on every punnet sold. Dr Jennings said: "To produce a variety, this size, with such sweet, perfumed flavour and fleshy, peach-like texture, is sheer good fortune. You do not eat Terri-Louise like an ordinary raspberry; you bite into it."

Duncan Macintyre, Marks

& Spencer's head fruit buyer, said: "When we saw the fruit growing on Simon Brice's farm we knew it was a sure-fire winner and we wanted it all to ourselves. It is the raspberry of the future, succulent, highly flavoured and, on average, double the size of any of its rivals. It has a quality which is worth paying over the odds for."

Dr Jennings, whose tayberry is a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry, produced Terri-Louise by crossing his own Glen Moy variety with a later cropper called Autumn Bliss. Now Mr Brice has 25,000 plants, covering eight acres, and this autumn's crop could be between 24 and 32 tonnes.

Teenage 'bride' will not be put in care, judge says

BY ANDREW FINKEL IN KAHRAMANMARAS AND BILL FROST

SARAH COOK, the 13-year-old who "married" an unemployed Turkish waiter she met on a family holiday, will not be placed in care if she returns home, a High Court judge said yesterday.

Attempting to reassure her, Sir Stephen Brown, president of the Family Division, made plain that the only concern now was for the teenager's welfare. "I hope the emotional climate can be lowered for Sarah's own interests," he added.

Meanwhile, the girl toured the bazaar in Kahramanmaras, the town in southeast Turkey where her husband is behind bars on a charge of statutory rape, looking for a wedding ring to give him on her next visit to the jail.

Sarah, from Braintree in Essex, was declared a ward of the High Court last Wednesday and she was ordered to return home immediately after her illegal marriage to 18-year-old Musa Komeagac.

At a subsequent hearing yesterday, Sir Stephen said: "In the light of certain reports which have been circulated, it is necessary to say that these are wardship proceedings and not care proceedings. Essex County Council has no present intention to take Sarah into care and away from her parents."

He said that Sarah should

return to the jurisdiction to the court so that her "welfare can be properly considered". He added: "I would wish to say that wardship is not a procedure which represents any threat or application which might prejudice anybody. What is desired is to enable the court to further the welfare of Sarah and to ensure her protection."

"The matter is adjourned while further inquiries are pursued. All this is being done in Sarah's own interests. It is not a procedure intended to accuse anybody of any wrongdoing at all. The purpose of wardship is to protect a minor."

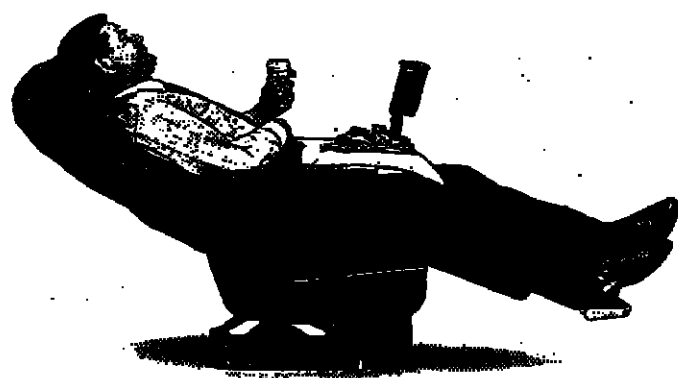
Sarah has so far refused to leave Turkey and in a public show of defiance recorded by local camera crews yesterday kissed the Koran to emphasise her love for the country. After two recent meetings with her husband she declared: "I love Musa. I love his family. I love this country. I don't want to go back."

Her mother Jackie, who travelled to Turkey last week, and senior British diplomats had tried to convince Sarah to leave after she was made a ward of court. However, it then emerged that the teenager is to be called as a witness when her husband's case comes before a local court on February 15.

COOL

CALM

AND COLLECTED



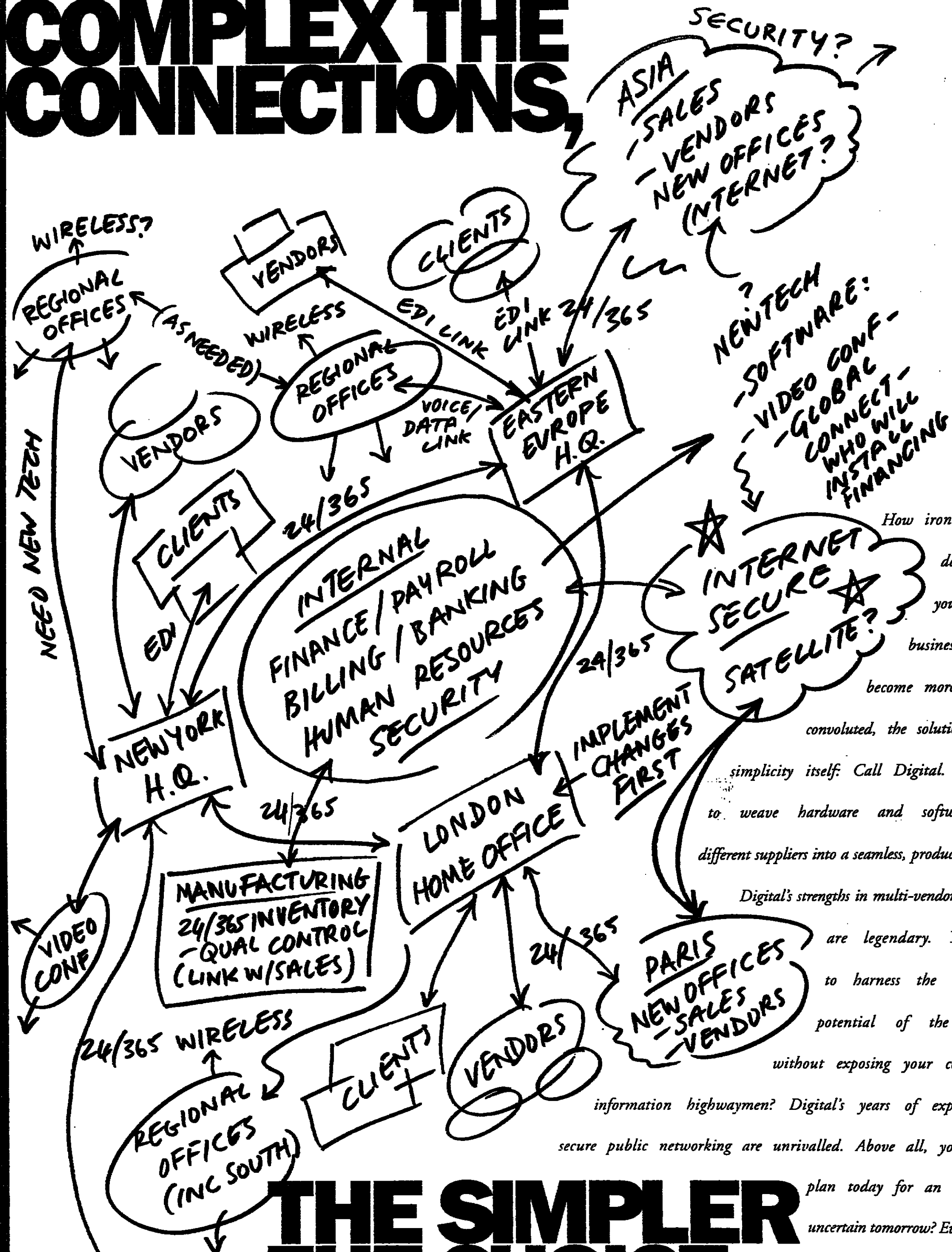
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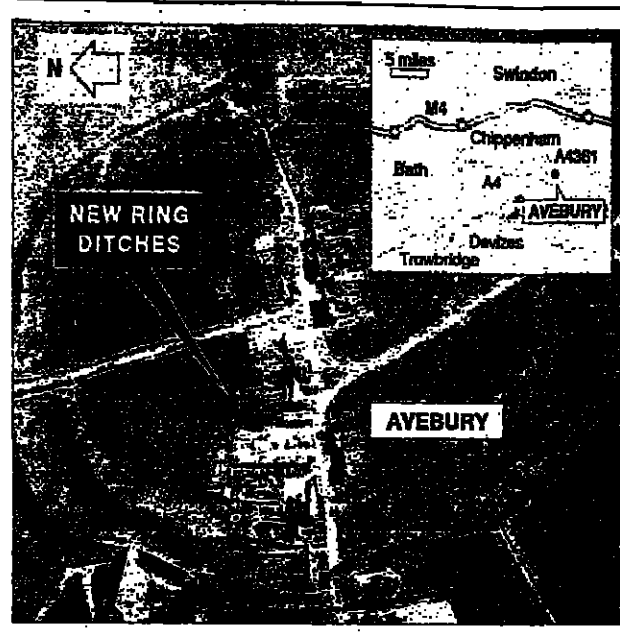
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Avebury grave comes to light after 5,000 years

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

CLUES to a burial mound dating from as long ago as 3,000 BC have been found inside the Neolithic henge and stone circle at Avebury in Wiltshire. The new discovery, at one of the world's most explored archaeological sites, is thought to have been brought to light by the effects of last year's long, hot summer.

Archaeologists say that such a mound would be the burial place of a "high-status individual" and shows that the site could have been used for ritual purposes centuries before the henge was built. The individual would be a contemporary of the first Egyptian dynasty. Aerial photography has revealed

two concentric rings of yellow grass, between 20 and 25 metres in diameter, thought to be the remains of "ring ditches" marking the base perimeter of a burial mound.

The discovery, described by the National Trust as "tremendously important", was made during general reconnaissance by archaeologists from the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, based in Swindon. They were looking for "parch marks", areas of dried and yellow grass caused by the quicker draining of moisture through soil that has been dug up or disturbed in the past. The effect can still show up thousands of years later.

Roger Featherstone, of the air photography unit, said: "The pic-

tures were taken on September 1 of last year. I did not expect to see anything new at Avebury as no parch marks had ever been seen inside the henge, which is one of the most studied sites in the world. It was not until I came to examine the pictures this month that I realised what was in them."

It is thought the freakishly hot weather last summer could have caused the parch marks to show up for the first time. The National Trust, which has owned the site since 1943, now plans to carry out a geophysical survey, using techniques of the kind used to detect oil and minerals. Excavation would be considered only as a last resort.

"The rings are the classical signature of a plough-levelled burial

mound," said Mr Featherstone. "The survey could give some idea of what, if anything, lies beneath. There is a parched blob at the centre which might indicate some kind of burial pit."

Chris Gingell, property manager for the trust, said: "This is a tremendously important discovery, the first of any major feature inside the existing ditch for more than 200 years and the first monument inside the western half of the site."

The barrow could be centuries older than the previously known remains at Avebury, which date from around 2,450-2,200 BC and consist mainly of a massive circular earthwork, with a ten-metre ditch and the remains of a circle of standing stones on its inner side.

Mr Gingell said: "We cannot yet be certain, but the ring ditches closely parallel the remains of barrows elsewhere which are generally earlier than the henge and stone circle at Avebury. This suggests the site could already have been in use for ritual purposes before the henge was built."

Avebury and Stonehenge, some 20 miles away, are jointly recognised by Unesco as a World Heritage Site. Many archaeologists hold Avebury to be the more impressive. This was also the view of John Aubrey, the 17th century antiquary who stumbled upon the remains while hawking. Avebury, he claimed, was "as much surpassing Stonehenge as a cathedral doth a parish church".

Islanders will defy court over unpaid Skye tolls

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SKYE islanders summoned to court for not paying tolls for the new bridge from the mainland are to challenge the legality of the prosecutions.

The first 187 protesters are due at Dingwall Sheriff Court on February 9. A councillor, Drew Miller, faces 26 charges under the New Roads and Streets Act 1991. The maximum penalty under the Act is £1,000 for each offence.

"Robbie the Pict", a Scottish nationalist who has been active in the Skye and Kyle Against the Tolls campaign (Skat), said those appearing in court next month would plead not guilty and would challenge the competency of the charges, a move open to them under Scots law.

The protesters say about 2,000 drivers have crossed the bridge without paying the toll, claimed to be the highest in Europe, and that about one in 50 is refusing to do so. Many drivers who have paid have pledged to support Skat, campaigners say.

About 60 members of Skat met Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the Scottish Office transport minister, in Stirling yesterday. They said he told them the £520 summer toll would stay and that there was no public money for the £25 million bridge. The Scottish Office says that bridge traffic is 13 per cent higher than that using the ferry in the same period last year.

Myrna Scott-Moncrieff, who runs Skat with her husband Gavin, the councillor for Staffin on Skye, said that she and at least ten others were prepared to go to jail if necessary.

The February cases could prove a headache for court officials if all those charged turn up. The court would be expected to deal in one day with the equivalent of almost half its normal annual caseload. The courtroom seats only 80.

David Hingston, the procurator fiscal for the area, said he anticipated that some of those charged would state their position by letter. "Any pleas against the competency of the charge will be briefly heard and a date set for a full hearing," he said.

The protest has been supported by a high number of Skye's 9,000 residents, including doctors, ministers, councillors, teachers and others who have not broken the law before.

Two Portree teachers who set up the Isle of Skye Brewery Company with a government grant are giving the profits of their Extortion Ale to the fines and court costs of those opposed to the tolls.

Families praise courage of Bosnia landmine victims

By PETER FOSTER

THE family of one of three soldiers killed in a Bosnian minefield learnt of his death four hours after watching news of the tragedy on television.

A letter from Trooper Andrew Ovington, in which he expressed his fears about hidden mines, arrived yesterday, the day after his Spartan armoured vehicle strayed into an unmarked minefield in northwest Bosnia. "It is almost as if he knew," his brother Graeme said. Lieutenant Richard Madden, 25, and Trooper John Kelly, 21, also died.

Trooper Ovington, 25, of Easington Colliery, Co Durham, was on his second tour of duty in Bosnia with the Light Dragoons. He was stationed in Hohn, Germany, where he

lived with his wife of three years, Tracy, 25. Trooper Ovington's stepfather, Thomas Simpson, said the family had heard about the explosion on the evening news but had no idea whether he was involved. "We feared it might be Andrew but we were left completely in the dark."

"Andrew was such a great lad, always smiling. It didn't matter how bad the situation was."

The Ministry of Defence said that it deeply regretted any delay but that it was important to confirm deaths before informing relatives. "In matters like these it is better to be slow and sure than quick and wrong."

Lieutenant Madden had celebrated news of his promotion to captain only days before his

death. He was commanding the vehicle when it drove into the unmarked minefield in poor weather.

The bachelor, also stationed in Hohn, spent Christmas with his family near Yeovil, Somerset. His brother, Major David Madden, 30, a Gulf War veteran, said that the lieutenant had been proud to command soldiers in Bosnia: "He was doing a job which he really enjoyed doing and the family are very proud of him for that."

Private John Kelly, of Sunderland, survived gun and mortar fire during his first tour in Bosnia during the war in 1994. He had returned two weeks ago as part of the Nato Implementation Force.

His father, Dennis, 45, said: "He was shot at by snipers and came under mortar attack but at the end of it all he still came home. He never said he was worried about going back out there. It is hard to accept that he has gone out in peacetime and with one bang he is gone."

Mr Kelly had prepared a parcel containing games, cards and sweets to send to his son. "John and his mates used to like to give sweets to the kiddies over there because they can't get them," he said.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, expressed sadness at the deaths but said that the peace mission would continue. "Our servicemen in Bosnia are very brave and run these risks knowingly every day. Their courage in implementing the peace has saved many thousands of lives and their mission will continue," Mr Portillo said.

Bodies recovered

Continued from page 1

an area which was thought to be mine-free. None of the minefields on data handed over since the signing of the Dayton treaty. The minefield is in a geographical area known as the "anvil" which is supposed to be handed back by the Muslim/Croat Federation to the Serbs.

British military sources said that a reconnaissance patrol had recently driven down the same road which links Gornji Ribnik to the east and Bos. Petrovac to the west. The Spartan, however, had come off the road before it hit the mine.

carried out mine clearances in areas where British soldiers are based, but otherwise have relied on the warring parties to provide maps and remove the devices.

In the British-run sector, there are about 1,700 minefields containing an estimated 6-7 million mines. "Some are sown in genuine minefields in a set pattern, but others are just scattered," a British source said.

None of the armoured vehicles with the British force - including Warriors, Saxons, Challeasers and Scimitars - is capable of surviving a land mine unscathed. The Spartan and its three or four-man crew are particularly vulnerable.

RAF types don't know their Arras from their Elbe

By ALAN HAMILTON

RAF personnel are surprisingly ignorant of their service's glorious past, according to Ministry of Defence historians.

They know of the Battle of Britain and the Gulf War, have probably heard of Douglas Bader, Guy Gibson and 617 Squadron, but know little or nothing of the aerial deriding at Arras, Arnhem and Normandy, or the mass bombing of Germany in 1945.

And it is only The Few who will know that the RAF, currently part of a Nato force overflying Iraq, was operating a similar mission in 1924. Ignorance of the RAF's 75-year history came to light two



Bader, left, and Gibson: legendary RAF figures

ceremonial standard. The general rule was eight, and with those squadrons involved in the Gulf War to their roll of honour, the flags were becoming full.

"We found that squadrons themselves knew little of their own honours, and were aware only of those emblazoned on the standard," Group Captain Ian Madelin, of the Air Historical Branch, said yesterday.

As a result this year's edition of the Air Force List, an annual publication which catalogues names and ranks of currently serving personnel, will for the first time enumerate each squadron's full battle honours. Many squadrons

that were asked to check their records searched through dusty files only to discover that the people asking the questions, the MoD historians, were the only ones with the answers.

At the RAF's oldest station, Wittering in Cambridgeshire, home to the original 1 Squadron, Flight Lieutenant Bob Chalmers reeled off the list of battle honours on the squadron standard: Western Front 1915-18, Ypres 1915, the Somme, the Battle of France 1939-40, the Battle of Britain, Fortress Europe 1941-45, France and Germany 1944-45, and the South Atlantic 1982.

"Many people here don't know that the squadron was involved at Arnhem or the

Normandy invasion. And if I tell them that this station was first rented from the Bureleigh estate by a Major Arthur Harris of the Royal Flying Corps in 1916, most of them have never heard of him in his later incarnation as Bomber Harris," Flight Lieutenant Chalmers said.

Sir Arthur Harris headed Bomber Command during the firestorm raids on Hamburg and the River Elbe, on Dresden and other German cities, and became one of the most controversial military leaders of the Second World War.

An MoD spokesman last night dismissed suggestions that the publication of squadron battle honours was an attempt by Air Chief Marshal

Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, to improve the service's image and morale.

□ The Ministry of Defence is considering buying an extra 50 Eurofighters, increasing Britain's purchase of the combat aircraft to 300. The MoD is committed to buying 250, at an overall cost of £14.9 billion, to replace the Tornado F3 and Jaguar. But a further 50 Eurofighters, developed jointly with Germany, Italy and Spain, may be ordered to replace the Harrier GR7.

Last week Germany and Britain reached agreement on production of the fighter, which is due to come into service in 2002. Britain will undertake up to 38 per cent of the production work.



The dead soldiers, from left: John Kelly, Richard Madden and Andrew Ovington

HOW THE SPARTAN COMPARES

Challenge	Length: 27ft 4in	Weight: 61 tons	Speed: 35mph
Spartan	Length: 16ft 2in	Weight: 8 tons	Speed: 50mph
Ford Escort 1.6	Length: 13ft 5in	Weight: 1 tons	Speed: 111mph

THE TMRP-6 ANTI-TANK MINE

The mine, believed to be a Yugoslav TMRP-6, is one of more than 15 anti-tank and anti-personnel devices produced by the former Yugoslavia. The TMRP-6 was designed to immobilise tanks.

Weight of main charge: 11.2lb
Type of main charge: cast TNT
Operating force pressure: 330lb, or 2.8-3.7lb

THE SPARTAN

The TMRP-6 has two charges, detonated by a pressure ignition or tilt rod system. The first charge clears the soil around and above the mine, ready for the second explosion.

The second charge propels a steel fragment upwards, and is capable of penetrating 40mm of armour. On a main battle tank it can cripple the treads, forcing the vehicle to stop.

Teenagers are the poorest spellers since war

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

RECENT school-leavers are worse at spelling than any age group educated since the war, according to a new survey.

Tests of 1,000 adults between the ages of 16 and 60 showed that only the simplest words, such as "have" and "my" were spelt correctly by everyone. One in 12 could do little more than fill in their name and address when given a straightforward form.

In the first such large-scale comparison, the Basic Skills Agency said many young people were ruling themselves out of the labour market through their poor spelling. The unemployed were 50 per cent more likely to make mistakes than those in work.

The verdict confirmed findings by industrialists, who reported yesterday that many teenagers lacked the initiative, determination and self-discipline to hold down a job. The industry in Education group said schools could be producing an "unemployable generation". A survey of 50 big employers and 175 young people cast doubt on the value of some qualifications and found that schools did little to develop essential personal qualities.

More than half of those aged between 16 and 24 could not spell "necessary" and almost three-quarters were defeated by "accommodation", the Basic Skills Agency found. Those who had been at primary school in the progressive heyday of the 1960s were among the best spellers.

In punctuation tests, more than a quarter of those surveyed could not insert full stops and capital letters in two simple sentences. In a more advanced passage, almost half could not place a single item of punctuation correctly.

Women fared better than men throughout the survey, carried out last summer.

Alan Wells, the agency's director, said that having apparently "taken their eye off the ball" over basic skills, many schools had now introduced spelling tests. "It is not too much to expect that everyone should have a good grasp of spelling and punctuation."

MISSPELLINGS

	% wrong	Men	Women
Would	2	3	
Because	6	4	
Apply	9	6	
Writing	13	9	
Allowance	17	14	
Sincerely	37	30	
Respect	41	34	
Unfortunately	44	37	
Apologise	46	35	
Necessary	47	40	
Immediately	49	41	
Occasionally	50	52	
Accommodation	72	64	

Prisoner with razor raped visitor as warders watched

By A STAFF REPORTER

PRISON officers watched helplessly as a convict threatened a visitor with a razor blade and raped her, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

When officers finally rushed into the room made available for the special visit, he slashed the woman's throat four times, exposing her larynx, the prosecution said.

Nicholas Fryers, 28, was allowed the two-hour supervised visit at Wormwood Scrubs in a room like those used by barristers visiting clients. When a prison officer said that time was up, Fryers said that he wanted to embrace the woman.

"It was a cold and cynical exercise to get her close enough to attack her," Stephen

Smyth, for the prosecution, said. "He had been nursing a hidden razor blade and was waiting for his moment to pounce."

Fryers spun the woman round, holding the blade at her neck. He shouted for the door to be locked and a probation officer supervising the visit was taken outside.

"A number of prison officers were looking in through the windows, wondering what to do," Mr Smyth said. The woman was instructed to lie on the floor. She thought that she was going to be killed. "As she lay on her side, he raped her, keeping the blade by her neck to enforce his demands."

Mr Smyth said that normally when a prisoner was armed, staff would have thought the reasonable thing

to do was to talk the prisoner round. But they were faced with a rape. A deputy governor arrived and it was agreed that the incident had to be stopped. The door was unlocked and officers rushed into the room.

"But before they reached Fryers he did what he had threatened and cut her throat, fortunately missing the jugular vein." The woman received three cuts to the front of her neck and one at the back which were sewn up by the prison doctor.

When interviewed later, Fryers said: "I admit I had sex, but I asked her first." He said that he had not meant to injure the woman.

Fryers denies rape and wounding with intent. The case continues.

CORRECTIONS

□ An editing error in Credo (January 27) resulted in an article by the Bishop of Basingstoke, Dr Geoffrey Rowell, reversing the sense of what he had written. The penultimate paragraph should have read: "The Church of England report, The Mystery of Salvation, was right to affirm that we deny the fullness of the love of God revealed in Christ, if we deny the truth and the goodness which Christ, as Logos, as God by the Spirit, can also inspire in those of other faiths and of none." We apologise for the mistake.

□ The Metropolitan Police paid a total of £44,000 damages (not £90,000 as stated in a report, January 26) without admission of liability to three people following an incident in London's West End.

□ The director of the first episode of the ITV series *Thief/Taker* was Colin Gregg, not Tom Clegg (Preview, January 25).

St Catherine's Monastery & Petra

The recent opening of the 4-star Hilton Hotel in Nuweiba now makes it possible to combine the fascinating sites of St Catherine's Monastery, and further exploration of Sinai, with the 'rose red' city of Petra.

Our journey commences with a 3-night stay on Sinai's Red Sea coast at the Coral Hilton Hotel at Nuweiba. From here we pay a visit to both St Catherine's and the Coloured Canyon with time for relaxation before taking the ferry service to Aqaba and onwards to Petra for four nights.

Besides the 4-star Hilton at Nuweiba, accommodation has been reserved at the 4-star Forum Hotel in Petra. The journey concludes with a drive across the newly-opened border to Ovda (up to May) for the return flight to London Gatwick.

The Monastery of St Catherine has attracted pilgrims since AD 327 when the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine, ordered the building of a sanctuary around the site of the Burning Bush. Its spectacular setting at the foot of Mt Sinai adds to the solitude and mystery of the site.

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Heseltine hits new low with charge of Labour villainy

In the American mid-term elections in 1990, two of the Democratic (vs. Democratic) candidates for Governor of Texas, one a former Governor and the other the current Attorney-General, put out competing advertisements about which had authorised or been present at more executions. On one of the television spots, the candidate was shown walking in front of large photographs of those executed (most of whom were black). As Ann Richards, their successful rival, noted, there seemed to be a competition about who had killed more fellow Texans. Is British

politics about to descend to such depths? Michael Heseltine is never knowingly undersold in his political gibes. But even by his knock-about standards, his weekend claim that Labour is "on the side of the villain" strikes a new low. It was compounded by a demeaning exchange of statistics by both main parties during Deputy Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. Rival claims about spending and recorded crime figures merely show the limited influence which any government has in this area.

The Tory attack is a classic exercise in guilt by association:

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

that because Labour had not supported some of the Government's law and order measures, it was therefore on the side of the criminal. By the same token, several leading judges could be said to be on the side of the villain since they have opposed, or been highly sceptical about, many of these measures. It is nonsense to define being tough on law and order solely in terms of backing government crime Bills when many have been

highly contentious within the legal world. There is a serious debate about what government actions can help reduce crime, and about the balance between toughness and civil liberties. It is fair to claim that during the 1980s Labour did not put enough emphasis on punishing crime, as opposed to its social causes. Its record was patchy. Some big city Labour local authorities, though fewer than in the 1980s, have been hostile to the police. Even then, the proper criticism was that Labour did not back its anti-crime intentions with actions, not that it was in any way

on the side of the villain, as opposed to the victim. But to describe Labour now in these terms is a grotesque travesty. It fails to recognise the shift of approach since 1992 under, first, Tony Blair and, more recently, Jack Straw (who has personally tackled muggers). Instead of the empty taunts of the past two days, politicians would be better advised to look at practical ways in which crime has been reduced and criminals have been caught. Despite the big rise in recorded crime since 1979, the Government deserves credit for some of its measures, which can be

judged alongside Labour's recent suggestions. John Major put the Tory case in less hysterical terms in his CPC Jubilee lecture last night. But even if his language was more restrained than his deputy's, there were similar flaws. There are legitimate questions about Labour's past record, but Mr Major's claim that a big philosophical gap exists with Mr Blair is unconvincing. The Labour leader accepts as much as the Prime Minister that crime is a matter of individual choice which cannot be explained away by social factors. Mr Blair would accept two

thirds of what Mr Major said about the nature of crime, punishment and the role of schools, though he would put more stress on community ties. In his own speech in Southwark Cathedral last night, Mr Blair talked about personal responsibility, individual obligations as well as rights, and the importance of children learning self and mutual respect and right from wrong within the family. Labour needs to spell out more what this means in practice. But the Tories will find Mr Blair an elusive target.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair plans inner-city homework centres

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LABOUR government would set up a national network of centres where pupils could do their homework out of school hours, Tony Blair announced last night.

In a speech that focused on schemes to help raise standards in inner-city schools, the Labour leader said that many children lacked space at home to study. He also proposed new incentives for teachers and a fast track for bright pupils.

Labour has already laid plans for a homework contract that would be signed by parents. Primary school children would be expected to do 30 minutes per day, and those in secondary school 90 minutes.

But Mr Blair intends to ensure that this can be done in places where the television is not blaring in the background. Addressing local business and community leaders at Southwark Cathedral, he said: "I want to look at how we can organise and fund a national network of pre-school and after-school homework centres around the country, to ensure that throughout the population learning is not confined to school hours."

The centres, which would be

based in schools, youth and community centres, or even empty residential flats in inner-city areas, would be supervised by retired people, voluntary groups or teachers. They would be set up by local education authorities, or individual schools, in conjunction with voluntary organisations. Although Mr Blair hopes that in time every pupil would have access to a homework centre, the first are expected to be set up in inner cities. Party sources made clear that the three initiatives he announced yesterday were aimed particularly at improving inner-city schools, where standards are often lower than elsewhere.

His proposals follow Labour MPs' criticism of the standard of many schools in inner London during the row over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a grammar school. Earlier Mr Blair said that Labour had no intention of mounting "a vendetta" against Britain's 160 grammar schools. Last night he confirmed that he intended to set up a fast track in comprehensive schools to enable children of the same ability to learn together, irrespective of their ages.



Mr Blair and Labour's Hemsworth by-election candidate, Jon Trickett, left, at a school in the constituency yesterday

"This does not mean 12-year-olds suddenly becoming sixth-formers, but it does mean bright children being stretched instead of being bored in subjects where they have particular aptitude," he said. He also reaffirmed Labour's support for streaming children within the same age group for specific subjects.

Mr Blair outlined plans to improve teaching in inner cities by announcing incentives for teachers. Labour is expected to provide more opportunities for promotion for teachers prepared to work in the inner cities, and is likely to

provide more places for its new grade of advanced-skill teachers in inner-city schools.

Sabbaticals "to help recharge batteries" would also be given to teachers working in deprived schools. "I want to see the best teachers contributing to the revival of our most difficult schools," he said. Head teachers will also be given incentives.

In a separate section, Mr Blair disclosed new plans to give housing tenants greater rights. Tenants should be involved in every stage of design, building and maintenance of housing estates. Bud-

gets should be devolved to estate level so that tenants could organise their own repairs, he suggested. Developing his stakeholding theme he suggested that everyone should have a stake in housing, education, employment and the community.

He devoted much of his speech to the need "to reinvent community for a modern world". Panning a bleak picture of modern Britain, he said that the country lacked drive and common purpose and that people believed that fair play was a thing of the past. "They believe that values of

decency and tolerance are being spurned. They see that a culture of responsibility and mutuality is being eroded," he said. "I believe the loss of a sense of community, of being bound to more than a narrow definition of self-interest, prevents us realising our full potential as individuals."

"People are not separate economic actors competing in the marketplace of life. They are citizens of a community. Britain is simply stronger as a team than a collection of selfish players."

Leading article, page 15

Townend favourite to lead 92 Group

By NICHOLAS WOOD

THATCHERITE Tories are preparing to retain their hold over the party's main backbench grouping.

Tomorrow they will nominate John Townend as chairman of the right-wing 92 Group in succession to Sir George Gardiner, who is stepping down after 11 years in the post. Mr Townend, 61, a critic of Government policy on Europe and the economy, is a close ally of Sir George, 60, whose conspiratorial manner has led ministers to dub him the "prince of darkness".

Despite rumours of a rival candidate from the "establishment Right", Mr Townend, MP for Bridlington, could win the chairmanship without a fight. The indications yesterday were that loyalists, who rallied strongly to John Major's side in the leadership election, were drawing back from forcing a contest.

They are understood to believe that a power struggle could deal a fresh blow to fragile Tory unity and that they stand little chance of halting Mr Townend, a combative Thatcherite who has powerful supporters among the hierarchy of the 92 Group.

Arrangements for an election will be discussed tonight at a private dinner open to all 105 MPs in the 92 Group. Six other posts will also be filled by a secret ballot of members, to be concluded on February 9. Nominations close on Friday.

Councils to close 'nuisance hostels'

By JAMES LANDALE

LOCAL authorities are to be given tough new powers to shut benefit hostels that disrupt surrounding neighbourhoods, the Government announced yesterday.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said that councils would also be given tougher powers to prevent new "nuisance hostels" opening. The move, announced in the second reading of the Housing Bill, will go some way towards reassuring Tory MPs with seaside constituencies. Many say that the rising number of former hotels and guest houses being used as cheap bedsits is damaging the tourist industry.

Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, condemned the Bill, saying it would do nothing to improve the living conditions of families forced to live in sub-standard housing.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Deputy Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Overseas Development Administration, Public Accounts Commission and Church Commissioners. Debate on Housing Bill, second reading. In the Lords: debate on Johnson's Allowance Regulations; Hong Kong (Overseas Public Services) Bill, second reading; daytime movements of abnormal loads on motorways. TODAY in the Commons: questions to Environment Ministers and the Prime Minister. Debate on record of privatised water companies; cuts in overseas aid; Police Grant Report (England and Wales); Scottish Rm industry. In the Lords: Chemical Weapons Bill, second reading; health and safety in farming.

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Brazilian and US firms to fund £120,000 Amazon expedition in footsteps of Colonel Fawcett

Mission seeks to unravel mystery of lost explorer

By Gabriella Gamini and Nigel Hawkes

A NEW attempt is to be made to solve one of the great mysteries of exploration, the disappearance of Colonel Percy Fawcett in the Amazon jungle more than 70 years ago.

A 16-man expedition led by a New York banker and a Brazilian businessman is to set out in June to search for the remains of Colonel Fawcett, who never returned from a search for a "lost city" in the Mato Grosso with his son, Jack, and friend, Raleigh Rimell, in April, 1925.

Stories and legends about Fawcett abound, most of them highly implausible. The most likely explanation for his disappearance is that he fell among unfriendly Calapalo Indians who killed him and his companions. But numerous expeditions over the years have so far failed to find convincing evidence of any remains.

The new expedition is:

headed by James Lynch, a Chase Manhattan banker, and René Delmotte, an executive of Mercedes-Benz in Brazil. They plan to set off at the end of the rainy season in June, on or about the seventy-first anniversary of the last letter Fawcett wrote to his wife, Nina, and despatched by Indian runner.

Like Fawcett, the expedition will leave from Curitiba, the capital of Mato Grosso. But while he rode out of town on horses and mules, the new expedition will be equipped with five cars and two boats. The plan is to retrace the steps of Fawcett and his companions along a 1,500-mile stretch of the forest which he described in his letters home.

"We want to find out what happened to Colonel Fawcett, whether he died at the hands of an Indian tribe or otherwise," Mr Lynch said. The expedition is expected to cost



at least £120,000 and will be supported by donations from ten large Brazilian and US companies.

Fawcett, who was born in Torquay in 1867, caught the South American exploration bug when he helped the Bolivian Government survey its frontier with Brazil between 1906 and 1909. After serving with distinction in the First World War and winning the DSO, he resolved to return to the Amazon in search of a lost civilisation in the heart of the "green hell" of the jungle.

After his first attempt failed, when his companions fell ill, he set off again in 1925, with Indian bearers and guides. When his letters stopped, there was no immediate anxiety. He was an experienced man able to look after himself.

After a year of silence, however, concern grew. In 1927, a mining engineer reported meeting a white man in the jungle who showed no wish to return to civilisation. From this grew one legend: that Fawcett, disillusioned by his experiences in the war, had turned his back on England and resolved to create a new civilisation in the middle of Amazonia.

The same year, a search party led by Commander

Dyott of the US Navy met Indians who claimed to have acted as porters for Fawcett. In one village, a child was found wearing a bright brass ornament which, on close examination, turned out to be the name plate from a packing case bearing the name of the London firm which had supplied Fawcett.

The conclusion was that Fawcett and his companions had been murdered, and their belongings stolen. But such a prosaic answer failed to satisfy the public, especially when Stephen Rattin, a Swiss trapper, emerged from the jungle in 1932 to report meeting a white man clad in skins in an Indian encampment. Rattin said that the man had told him he was Fawcett and was a prisoner of the Indians.

More recently, the anthropologist brothers, Orlando and Claudio Villas Boas, themselves Brazilians, have compiled a more plausible account of what happened. From conversations with the Calapalo Indians, they concluded that Fawcett had indeed been killed. According to the Indians, Fawcett was looking for gold when he ended up in their territory. Seen as a threat, he was clubbed to death by Izarari, a chief of the Calapalos.

"The Indians claim that they killed the colonel, his son and his assistant Rimell. They told us that Fawcett was buried under a tree and that the other two were thrown into a lake," Orlando Villas Boas said.

Meanwhile, a coffin of bones found by the brothers in a Calapalo village in 1951 are undergoing new tests to see if they might be those of Fawcett. After their discov-



Colonel Percy Fawcett, who disappeared in the Brazilian jungle more than 70 years ago, and Izarari, a chief of the Calapalos Indians of Amazonia; according to one account, it was he who clubbed Fawcett to death



Colonel Fawcett on horseback, shortly before he set out on his search for a "lost city" in 1925

ery, the bones were brought to England and examined by experts. They concluded that the leg bones were those of a much smaller man, while a dental plate that had belonged to Fawcett did not fit the jaw.

The coffin of bones was returned to Rio de Janeiro's National Museum. Orlando Villas Boas removed it from there in 1986 but later donated it to the São Paulo Museum of Anthropology.

Brazilian anthropologists are still trying to prove that the bones belong to Fawcett, and they are currently undergoing DNA testing. They will be compared with DNA from hair and blood samples from a grand-daughter of the explorer's, Catherine Fawcett, who lives in London.

Fawcett's own letters were used to support the notion that he had dropped out of society and was living a simple life in the jungle. "A man who has once sampled extreme simplicity of existence will seldom return to the artificial life," he once wrote. "The burden of it is not realised until it is laid down."

And this: "The English go native very easily. There is no disgrace in it. On the contrary, in my opinion, it shows a creditable regard for the real things in life."

Another explanation was that he had caught leprosy and preferred to die in obscurity, but that would hardly explain the disappearance of his son and Rimell. Death, by illness or violence, is by far the likeliest explanation.



Brian Fawcett, the explorer's son, examining the unidentified skull found in Brazil in 1951

US women break into life at the top

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE glass ceiling has been not merely broken in America, it has been shattered, according to a new report which discloses that women now own a third of the country's domestic businesses.

Between 1987 and 1992, the number of companies owned by American women jumped 43 per cent, almost double the rate of growth for all firms during that period, and by 1994 the number of companies had risen to 7.7 million, an increase of 1.3 million on the previous year.

In its first report to President Clinton, the Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, in co-operation with the National Women's Business Council, said that firms under female ownership now employed 35 per cent more of the American workforce than the Fortune list of top 500 companies, and contributed more than \$1.6 trillion (more than £1,000 billion) to the economy each year.

Chaired by Laura D'Andrea Tyson, the President's National Economic Adviser, the committee was established a year ago to ensure that women's issues were addressed at the highest level in the Administration.

David Silver, the author of *Enterprising Women*, said that by the year 2005, women would own more businesses than men.

London: The extent to which British women have flexed their business muscle is still not fully documented by the statisticians. The Department of Trade keeps no figures, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

Mexico tells Britain to take business chances

By Michael Binyon, Diplomatic Editor

PRESIDENT ZEDILLO of Mexico, in a clear attempt to reduce the overwhelming influence of the United States on his country, called on John Major yesterday to urge Britain to seize the opportunities opened up by Mexican political and economic reforms.

In talks and a luncheon at Downing Street that focused largely on economic links between the two countries, President Zedillo outlined Mexico's long-term projects and the steps taken to stabilise the economy since the catastrophic collapse of the peso when he came to office a year ago. He hopes British financial institutions will underpin recovering investor confidence and boost investment in Mexico, and that the City will play a greater role in Mexico's affairs.

Mr Major spoke of the need for British business to play a larger role in Mexico's economy. Before meeting Mr Major, Señor Zedillo tried to allay British fears of political instability by giving assurances that a new, more democratic framework would be drawn up for Mexican congressional elections next year and that the central Government would do more to satisfy the demands of the poor peasants which have led to revolt by Zapatista guerrillas.

Señor Zedillo also told Mr Major that Mexico was now able to repay its short-term debts, that last year saw the fewest strikes for 20 years, that Mexico would continue privatisation and would do whatever was needed to protect its banking sector.

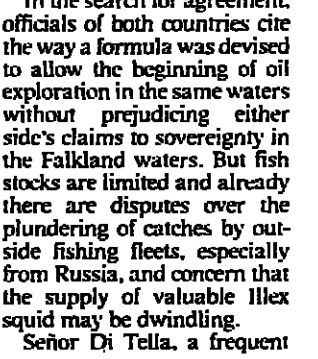
Guido Di Tella, the Foreign Minister of Argentina, also began talks today with the Government on the vexed question of a fisheries agree-

ment in the waters around the Falklands. The next round of negotiations will be held in Buenos Aires in two weeks' time at a meeting of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Señor Di Tella is here to underline the importance of an agreement.

An agreement still looks distant: not only is the sovereignty of the waters in dispute but the two sides also differ on the assessment of the available stocks, the conservation measures needed and a unified regime for the start and end of the fishing season.

In the search for agreement, officials of both countries cite the way a formula was devised to allow the beginning of oil exploration in the same waters without prejudicing either side's claims to sovereignty in the Falkland waters. But fish stocks are limited and already there are disputes over the plundering of catches by outside fishing fleets, especially from Russia, and concern that the supply of valuable hake squid may be dwindling.

Señor Di Tella, a frequent



Zedillo: sees growing role for the City

Rifles given to released hostages

Sana'a: Yemeni tribesmen gave their 17 French hostages a rifle each and daggers as souvenirs before freeing them yesterday. The al-Aslam tribesmen also gave the mainly elderly visitors a tour of their eastern Yemen region.

The Government said security forces later arrested four tribesmen. Jean Jacques Abassin, 65, one of those held for four days, said: "We were treated like guests." He showed off his gift rifle. (AFP)

Saddam 'well'

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, denying reports that he has cancer, said he was in good health and feeling strong enough to swim the Tigris river back and forth. Saddam is 58. (Reuters)

Hunger alert

Rome: World leaders must tackle hunger as a threat to global stability when they gather here later this year for an unprecedented summit on food, a senior United Nations diplomat said. (Reuters)

Cache details

Vienna: The US gave the Austrian Government details of secret arms caches, hidden in the country after the war to help resist a Soviet invasion, and promised to remove the arsenals promptly. (Reuters)

Puppet state

Erfurt, Germany: The puppet Miss Piggy was "in police custody" here after being damaged during a break-in at an exhibition of 30 original Muppets. Two puppets, Ernie and Bert, are missing. (AP)

Gun gang slaughters eight in South African queue for jobs

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN ALBERTON, NEAR JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's ruling African National Congress has suggested that the slaughter by gunmen of eight people and the wounding of 24 outside a factory in Alberton, southeast of Johannesburg, yesterday may have been politically motivated.

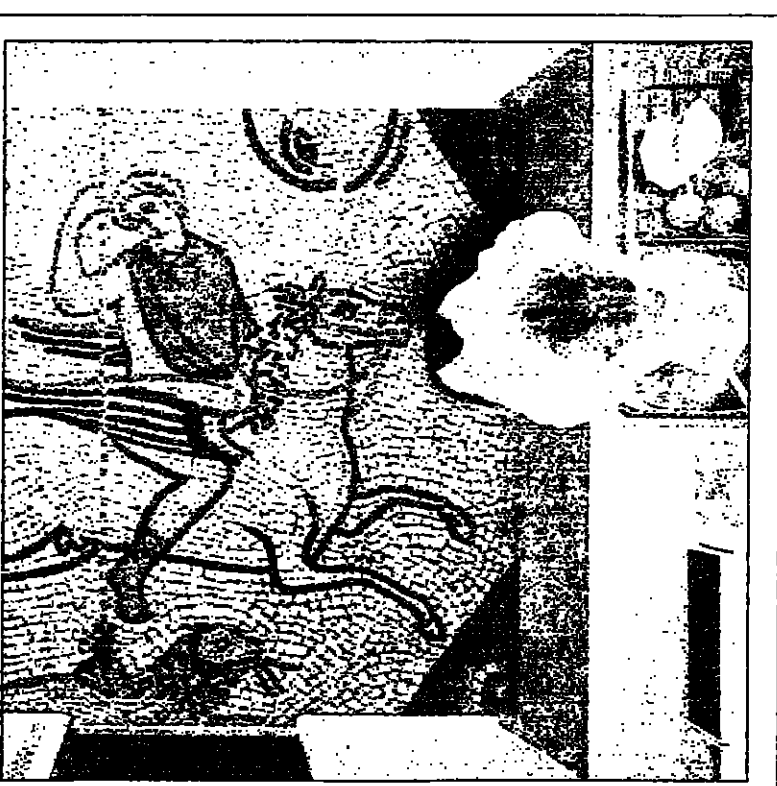
According to the police, at least seven men armed with AK-47 assault rifles and 9mm pistols fired on a queue of job-seekers outside the town's NF die-casting factory just before 3am. Witnesses said that more than 2,000 people had begun queuing outside the factory

the previous afternoon to apply for 200 jobs when seven men arrived and pushed their way to the front. When people complained, the men produced guns and fired.

The motive has baffled the police. However, the attack was reminiscent of "third force" political violence in the countdown to 1994's democratic elections. The phrase "third force" has been generally used to express concerns that far right-wing members or former members of the security forces are fomenting violence in order to disrupt or

prevent political change. The ANC said the attack was possibly aimed at undermining its efforts to bring peace to KwaZulu/Natal. But it may be that, with the official unemployment rate at 33 per cent, people have resorted to such measures to score off competitors for jobs.

Johannesburg: Dr Badra Ranchod, Ambassador to the European Community in the 1980s, has announced that he is to leave parliament. It is unclear whether he will also leave the former ruling National Party.



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Porn publisher's empire running out of steam

By Quentin Letts in New York

A FINANCIAL crisis has hit Bob Guccione, the publisher, pornographer and master of Manhattan swank. His *Penthouse* magazine has recorded its first loss, circulation has plummeted, the cover price has risen and he has reluctantly closed two other titles.

Mr Guccione, 65, denied that the banks have taken control of General Media, the publishing group he took public in 1994, but disclosed that he has considered selling *Penthouse* and may soon retire. His problems suggest a change of fortunes for previously lucrative "skin" magazines

in the face of competition from video tapes and the Internet. Circulation of *Penthouse* has dropped to a million, down from 3.2 million ten years ago.

Mr Guccione said that advertising revenues were good, but with *Penthouse* the key performer in his company, he had little choice but to close two smaller titles, *Omni* and *Longevity*, shedding 40 staff. *Omni*, a science fiction magazine, had a circulation of 703,000, and *Longevity*, a health magazine, 358,000.

Since the launch of *Penthouse* in 1965, the medallion-wearing Mr Guccione, shirt open to the navel, has come to personify the soft-porn world. His house is one of the biggest in Manhattan, with a sunken swim-

ming pool, marble floors, bodyguards and an art collection which includes work by Botticelli, Matisse, Picasso and Renoir.

His wife, Kathy Keeton, is president of General Media, which lost \$7.6 million (£4.8 million) in the last financial year — its worst performance for 31 years. Mr Guccione may be facing the biggest crisis of his business life since his earliest days as a pornographer in London, when he acquired an out-of-date mailing list and mistakenly posted a promotional brochure for *Penthouse* to a collection of reputable, horrified subjects such as doctors, clergymen, schoolgirls and MPs' wives.

Mr Guccione, a former altar boy

who once considered becoming a priest, said yesterday that he would sell *Penthouse* if offered the right money. "We had an offer already but it was too small," he said. He added: "Eventually, I'm going to put all this aside and take up painting full-time, which I believe is what I was intended for in this life all along."

Last year Mr Guccione drew \$15 million in salary from General Media, while his wife was paid \$500,000. To soothe investors, he claimed *Penthouse* was within five weeks of announcing a technical breakthrough that would allow it to charge Internet users for access to the magazine. He said he was unable to give details of the deal.

Clueless sleuths go back to school

By BEN MACINTYRE

HUNDREDS of private detectives assembled in Lyons to mark the opening of a "school for sleuths" designed to make the next generation of French private eyes more like Detective Maigret, and less like Inspector Clouseau.

There are some 1,200 private detectives in France, and the profession has recently expanded beyond its traditional role of spying on adulterers, as demand for industrial counter-espionage has increased. Private detectives are regarded in France as both glamorous and faintly ridiculous. Most are self-taught, a few end up on the wrong side of the law and many are merely incompetent.

The private detective college, which opened last weekend, is part of an effort to set standards within the secretive industry. With branches opening next month in Paris, Lyons and Montpellier, the school is offering a year-long course in shadowing a suspect, how to detect a telephone tap, photography and "respect for individual liberty".

The teaching staff will be made up of former detectives and retired policemen.

"Obviously not everyone can become a detective. What will be taught above all are investigative techniques," Roger Marc Moreau, a professional detective, said.

However critics of the course for gunshots say that the job boils down to common sense, as Sherlock Holmes himself observed, the principles of detection are "elementary, my dear Watson".

Flash floods in France put 100,000 in danger

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FLASH floods caused by torrential rain swept through the Hérault region of southern France yesterday, leaving at least four people dead and hundreds more stranded or homeless.

"I have never seen anything like it," said Francine Ségas, Mayor of the tiny town of Puisserguier, where three people drowned. At least six more people were reported missing round the city of Béziers after three rivers burst their banks following a heavy downpour that began on Sunday afternoon.

Local officials said 6in of rain had fallen in less than 24 hours. They gave a warning that, with more storms forecast for the region, increased flooding would put up to 100,000 people in danger.

Inhabitants of Agde and Sérignan — two coastal towns east of Béziers — were told to leave their homes immediately. "A wave of water is going to descend downstream," Bernard Monginet, Prefect of the Hérault department, said.

An evacuation operation was under way in Béziers yesterday as Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and the Interior Minister, Jean-Louis Debré, flew to the area. "I am being kept informed on the situation hour by hour. All the necessary measures will be taken to combat the effects of the bad weather," M. Debré said.

Three of the dead were from one family. A brother and sister, aged 10 and 12, and their mother drowned when their caravan was swept away.

The fourth victim was a 60-year-old man from the nearby town of Magalas, who died when his car was swept away on Sunday night.

M. Juppé travelled to

Puisserguier and stood before the coffins of the drowned children in the village church before holding a crisis meeting with rescue workers. The Prime Minister said emergency aid funds would be sent immediately to the most badly flooded areas.

Witnesses yesterday said a car containing several passengers had also been swept away as the Libron river overflowed.

More than 500 divers and rescue workers moved out hundreds of people threatened by rising water. A crisis centre was set up in the Béziers suburbs and by yesterday afternoon more than a hundred people had been airlifted or rowed to safety.

Rail traffic between Béziers and Narbonne was suspended after the track was flooded.

Witnesses reported seeing caravans carried hundreds of yards by the water and, west of Béziers, several houses were flooded to a depth of 4ft or more. Some motorists, surprised by the swiftness of the flooding, took refuge in trees and up telephone poles. One was saved by hanging on to the wing mirror of a lorry parked by his submerged car.

The meteorological station at Mount Aigoual in the Cévennes said January's rainfall will be the highest since 1896, when records began.

The massive downpour also caused flooding in Corsica, where eight people had to be rescued by helicopter from holiday bungalows.

France has been struck by a series of serious floods in recent years. Last year 16 people were killed. About 30 people were drowned in September 1992 after flash flooding in the area of Vaucluse.

French gloom, page 14



Cars litter Puisserguier's streets after floodwaters swept through, drowning at least four people and leaving hundreds homeless. Emergency aid has been promised to the region, where more than 6in of rain fell in less than 24 hours

Scientists and occultists baffled by Jura town's burning question

By BEN MACINTYRE

HUNDREDS of police, scientists, tourists and experts in the paranormal have descended on Moirans-en-Montagne, a small town in the Jura mountain range, after a series of apparently spontaneous fires that have defied logical explanation.

In the past three months no less than 11 fires have erupted in various parts of the town, killing two people. No one knows how they started but just about everyone has a theory, ranging from the scientific to the supernatural.

Jean-Pierre Berthet, the local magistrate, has called in a raft of scientific experts to try to explain what the 2,000 inhabitants of the town grimly refer to as the "phenomena", but without success. Arson has been ruled out by police. M. Berthet conceded that the scientists had failed to find any "electrical, nuclear or magnetic anomaly".

The first "phenomenon" occurred on November 4, when a property belonging to Jean-Pierre Raffin suddenly burst into

flames. This was followed by ten more fires, equally inexplicable, many in the same street. On January 20, Annie Raffin, a relative of the first victim, died when her home also burst. A volunteer fireman, Gérard David, was killed while attempting to save her.

Laboratory tests on a fragment of melted pewter indicated the most recent fire had burnt at more than 1,300°C (2,372°F) and, still more bizarrely, witnesses claimed the dancing flames had pointed into the wind.

Electrical experts were brought in to check newly laid cable, but reported that the current was normal. Other scientists professed themselves baffled.

Strange and superstitious rumours have begun circulating in the town, including the view that Moirans-en-Montagne is being bombarded by laser beams transmitted by satellite, as well as the more old-fashioned, but equally unlikely, theory that the town is being victimised by pagan gods.

Emile Battista, a retired Magistrate

fisherman and specialist in the occult, came to the town last week to give his expert opinion: an exorcist must be called in from the Vatican, he advised.

The nervous occupants of houses in Rue de Cares, where most of the fires broke out, have taken to leaving their homes at night.

Now a Paris scientist has come forward with a new theory. Pascal Bernard, of the Institute of Global Physics told *Le Monde* newspaper that the spontaneous fires may be the result of small earthquakes releasing inflammable gases created by organic decomposition in caves beneath the mountains.

The Jura range is a seismically active zone, M. Bernard points out, and a jolt was recorded in the neighbouring area some ten years ago.

That theory may appear far-fetched, but barring other hard scientific reasoning or a belief in the supernatural, it remains, in M. Bernard's view, "almost the only reasonable hypothesis" to explain the mystery of the town that burnt.

EU ministers dismiss British fears of monetary union crisis

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S diagnoses of crisis over European monetary union were dismissed by its partners yesterday as little more than wishful thinking that should not be allowed to unsettle the march to the single currency.

French and German foreign ministers joined the European Commission at a Brussels gathering, which came after a wave of public anxiety around Europe over EMU, in reasserting their confidence in the timetable and economic criteria for embracing the euro. "We are making all the necessary effort to make the date and we will do so," Hervé de Charette, the French Minister, said.

The French and Germans were especially irked by what their officials saw as trouble-making by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Outside the meeting, he tweaked his colleagues' nerves by noting the uncertainty among senior statesmen over the 1999 target date for launching EMU. "I doubt if this can go on day after day, week after week, without some serious credibility

problem," he said. The countries which insisted they could meet the deadlines would have to do "something stronger" than simply make speeches, although he declined to say what that should be.

Continental officials depicted Mr Rifkind's remarks as a reflection of the Government's desire to see the EMU project collapse well ahead of the need for any painful British decision about exercising the option. "This is wishful thinking," Werner Hoyer, the German Deputy Foreign Minister, said.

There is not the slightest question of postponing anything. We are sticking to the (Maastricht) criteria as well as the timetable."

Germany is to announce measures to boost the economy and reduce unemployment, which has begun rising with the economic slowdown of recent months, casting doubt on the monetary project. Herr Hoyer said German moves were being co-ordinated with France. "We are working very closely together," he said.

However, ministers in Brussels for their first council of the season sounded a common note on the need to combat unemployment across the Union. Governments are worried that the number of jobless, now 20 million in the European Union, will climb without measures to create work.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 27

Bonn tax cuts deal

Bonn: The squabbling parties that make up Germany's coalition yesterday patched together a face-saving compromise to cut tax rates, thus overcoming a crisis that threatened to bring down Helmut Kohl's Government (Peter Bild writes). The solidarity tax, a 7.5 per cent surcharge imposed on income and corporation tax after the country's unification in 1990, to finance eastern Germany's reconstruction, is to be cut to 5.5 per cent from July next year.

The Free Democrats, who hold the balance of power in Bonn, had threatened to withdraw support unless the Government committed itself to phasing out the surcharge in 1997. The concession was won from the dominant Christian Democrat Union and Christian Social Union grouping.



Snow White: Disney is protecting her image

Snow White's impure past

Los Angeles: A starlet's risqué bedroom scene has forced the Walt Disney Company into drastic action to protect the name of Snow White (Giles Whitell writes).

Monica Keena, 16, stars in Disney's forthcoming *Snow White in the Black Forest*. However, she was previously in the low budget *Ripe* complete with a bedroom scene described by a source as "tastefully shot" and with "no nudity".

Disney executives are anxious that such a scene could tarnish Snow White's image and are trying to buy up *Ripe*, the *New York Post* reported.

Reformers break links with Yeltsin

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN reformers who have doggedly supported President Yeltsin since 1991, including many of his liberal Kremlin aides, have finally renounced their backing this month.

Sergei Filatov, one of Mr Yeltsin's closest aides until he was sacked this month as his Chief of Staff, admitted in an article in Saturday's edition of *Izvestia* that, after the brutal handling of the hostage crisis in Dagestan and the sacking of several reformers, Mr Yeltsin had lost the support of the Russian middle-class intelligentsia.

Mr Filatov said he was "disturbed" by the direction in which the President was heading. But he argued that Mr Yeltsin still deserved support, because to abandon him would mean "pushing him into the embrace of the security structures," the kind of drift into isolation that helped to undermine the former President, Mikhail Gorbachev, before the August 1991 coup.

But four prominent liberals, who resigned last week from the Presidential Council, a high-profile group of experts

that used to advise Mr Yeltsin, say their split from the President is now total. "In the last two weeks everything has changed," said Otto Latsis, the main political commentator with *Izvestia* and the first to resign.

The final straw for the four men was the bloody assault on the village of Pervomaiskoye ten days ago, in which many hostages died. "I do not know what there was more of," said Yegor Gaidar, the man Mr Yeltsin made his acting Prime Minister in 1992. "Incompetence, cruelty or lies." He said his abandonment of the President was "final and irreversible".

Mr Yeltsin's behaviour is an obvious reaction to last month's parliamentary elections, when the Communist Party topped the poll and Mr Gaidar's party collected less than 4 per cent of the vote. He has sacked the minister in his Government most associated with economic reform, Anatoli Chubais, and has already started promising handouts to pensioners and students. But many believe it is a desperate and misguided strategy.

Red Cross airlift to feed starving in Kabul

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE International Committee of the Red Cross will launch an emergency airlift of 1,000 tonnes of food this week to relieve the besieged Afghan capital of Kabul where more than one million people are facing starvation.

Overland supply routes into the city have been closed by Mujahidin forces trying to topple the Government of President Rabbani. Random shelling has forced the closure of Kabul airport, leaving only Bagram military airport in the north open for supplies.

Afghanistan's warring factions may be on the verge of reaching a peace settlement, according to General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the country's feared Uzbek warlord. In an interview with *The Times*, he said leaders of the rival Mujahidin factions will meet in Pakistan next month in an effort to bring an end to the internecine fighting.

The Uzbek general turned politician, who controls 30 per cent of the country, 50 per cent of the country's gas and oil reserves, said he wanted an overall settlement, and did not

Kabul: At least five people were killed and several wounded in opposition rocket attacks and a jet fighter bombing raid on the Afghan capital yesterday, security sources and an Afghan news service said. Witnesses said a warplane dropped bombs in the presidential palace area, but there were no immediate reports of casualties there. An earlier rocket attack on the palace had killed one person and wounded three. (Reuters)

want Afghanistan to disintegrate into "little pieces". Speaking through an interpreter, General Dostam said Mr Rabbani's Government was a government in name only. "We could finish off Rabbani's forces by forming an alliance with the other factions, but we are worried about the consequences that would have on the civilian population."

General Dostam said he has been engaged in negotiations with Taleban, the Pakistan-backed Islamic student militia, which has captured half of Afghanistan over the past 18 months. He insisted, however, that no military alliance had been forged between their two factions in an attempt to oust the Kabul Government.

"Most of the people in Afghanistan are Muslims," General Dostam said. "We want an Islamic government in Kabul. But we do not want a fundamentalist government."



Rabbani: described as a powerless leader

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Family thwarted in moves to put Du Pont into care

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

RELATIONS of John du Pont, the multimillionaire murder suspect captured after a 48-hour armed siege, repeatedly tried to commit him to a mental hospital before he allegedly shot an Olympic wrestler.

Mr du Pont's sister-in-law, Martha, described him as "a gun that was waiting to go off". She said: "We've been trying for years to get him help, but you just can't get someone committed anymore. People like John are very savvy and even cunning. They talk to the doctors and talk their way out of things." In the last two years, she said, the eccentric Mr du Pont "really began losing it" and he had been "just wild" in recent months.

Neighbours of Mr du Pont criticised local authorities for not noticing how his mind slowly unravelled after the 1988 death of his mother and speculated that he would have been shown very different treatment had he not been a friend and honorary member of the local police. Anne Knorr, a local resident, said: "When you're rich, you're

eccentric. When you are poor, you are stark, raving mad."

Mr du Pont, 57, has been charged with first-degree murder of Dave Schultz, 36, a leading wrestler who lived in the grounds of Mr du Pont's 800-acre estate in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. When captured on Sunday by a police SWAT team, he said: "OK, OK, don't hurt me! What are you doing? I am the Dalai Lama." He claimed that he was a "head of state" and "equal to the star".

Acquaintances yesterday detailed a slow deterioration in his mental health. Jack Curvo, a wrestling pupil of Mr du Pont, recalled that his patron sometimes claimed that the walls were talking to him. At other times he would mistake his horses for cars. Mr du Pont believed that these were trying to place a spell on him, would fire balls of newspaper from his Civil War cannon, spoke of his fear of assassination, and would wander around his grounds in a dressing gown, firing a machinegun at passing sparrows. "He was weird," Mr

Curvo said. Prosecutors were said to be "considering" seeking the death penalty for Mr du Pont, but lawyers for the pharmaceuticals he is expected to claim that he was not in possession of his senses when Mr Schultz was shot. The dead man's widow, Nancy, who appeared at a press conference with her children, Alex, nine, and Danielle, six, said she had "no idea why John committed this senseless and brutal killing".

During the two-day siege of Mr du Pont's house, police marksmen regularly had him in their telescopic sights. Mr du Pont, who was himself armed with a spectacular arsenal, could be seen roaming through the 19th-century-style mansion. The marksmen regularly told their commanders, "I have him", indicating that they had him square in their sights, but the order to shoot was not given. The siege ended when telephone negotiators persuaded Mr du Pont to leave the house to repair a boiler, whereupon he was seized by 15 heavily armed policemen.

Many of the police who took part in the siege knew Mr du Pont personally, as he instructed officers in small-arms fire at a shooting range he built on the estate, and became a volunteer member of the force. He had also bought equipment for the local station.

Commentators yesterday said police spokesmen during the siege had been unusually respectful about Mr du Pont, emphatically calling him "mister" and allowing him to get a night's sleep, with even a wake-up telephone call on Sunday morning. John Halota, 65, a retired policeman, recalled: "You've got to realise, he trained a lot of these guys."

In answer to complaints that the police had not acted on complaints about Mr du Pont's bizarre behaviour, which included armed threats to his wife and another wrestler, the former district attorney, William Ryan, said that he personally had not seen any paperwork about such complaints.



Shanghai chic: young people stroll on the revitalised Bund but high heels will draw a rebuke or a fine from elderly street committee members

Vigilantes rule in city of 'Seven Noes'

James Pringle, in the last of his two-part series on Shanghai, finds that, despite a changing skyline, old attitudes linger on

THE plane trees have been cut down and the old Whangpoo Park, where supposedly there once was an offensive sign that read "No dogs or Chinese" — has seen its size reduced further. The space has been taken up by a soaring Monument to the People's Heroes with Communist revolutionary figures sculpted into the facade.

A beautification campaign has raised the mile-long walkway on the Bund, the famous waterfront along the Whangpoo River with the neo-Grecian banks and Western trading houses testifying to the prewar era of Shanghai's greatness, or notoriety. The Bund is now more accessible and the cleanest stretch of public property in China.

One dare not light a cigarette here, for bossy, elderly members of a local street committee will impose a 10-yuan (90p) fine on the spot. The other day a couple of these vigilantes berated a young woman for wearing high heels on the new Bund walkway.

A current Shanghai campaign against the "Seven Noes", including no littering, smoking, spitting, swearing, pushing and arguing, is designed to enhance "spiritual civilisation", so a mother scolds her spoilt "little emperor" son for discarding a plastic cup. But the Whangpoo and Szechow creek, which meet at the Bund, remain as polluted as ever with raw sewage.

In the 1970s, when I first saw the Bund during the later stages of the Cultural Revolution, an 8ft-high slogan outside the Peace Hotel, formerly Sir Victor Sassoon's Art Deco Cathay where in 1929 Noël Coward wrote *Private Lives* while recovering from flu, read: "Long live invincible Mao Tse-tung Thought."

The clock tower on the old British-built Customs House chimed the *East Is Red* every half-hour, and the former racially exclusive Shanghai Club, with its 33-yard mahogany Long Bar where taipans took their ease, was a hostel for Communist Party cadres.

Today the clock's ordinary chimings are drowned by traffic. The Shanghai Club houses a Western fast-food outlet and the famed Long Bar has gone. The former imperial houses on the Bund are dwarfed by the Oriental Pearl Television Tower, across Whangpoo in the Pudong development zone.

In 1972 the Peace Hotel was a dismal place; the lobby was

icy and staff slumped dozing over the reception desk. The hotel, with its pyramid roof, has since been restored with a gymnasium and a business centre; but a jazz band of grumpy-looking elderly men playing *When the Saints Go Marching In* made it sound like a dirge.

In early 1972, strolling along the Bund with a Shanghai-born government "mind-er", I said he must be proud of the Bund today is just as likely to receive a nod from a heavily made-up beauty, whispering an offer of assignation for a price, just like in decadent prewar days.



Old style: the Peace Hotel band plays jazz sedately

Dole's tax challenge rejected by new rival

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

STEVE FORBES, the multimillionaire who has rocketed to second place in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, has rejected rivals' demands that he should make his tax returns public.

Mr Forbes said the tax issue was simply a ploy to divert attention from his controversial call to replace the various levels of income tax with a flat tax of 17 per cent for anyone earning more than \$36,000 (£24,000) a year.

Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader whose status as front-runner is being eroded by Mr Forbes, released his income-tax returns, last week and challenged other candidates to do the same, specifically targeting Mr Forbes, the

publisher of *Forbes* magazine whose worth is estimated at \$450 million.

In their attacks, Mr Dole and others say Mr Forbes would benefit personally from his flat tax because all capital gains and investment profits would be tax-free. Middle-class voters, meanwhile, would lose their tax deductions for home mortgages and charitable donations.

The agitation about Mr Forbes reflects his surge in the polls. In Iowa, where Republicans hold the first big presidential preference vote in two weeks, Mr Dole's support has fallen to 26 per cent from 40 per cent a few months ago, while Mr Forbes has emerged from nowhere to 18 per cent.

Troops 'sold' to colony

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S supporters in Hong Kong are going all-out to persuade the colony's residents that units of the People's Liberation Army units to be stationed here next year should not remind them of its role in crushing the 1989 Peking uprising.

The Communist press yesterday devoted many columns to this friendly garrison, estimated at 5,000 to 8,000, pointing out that members are chosen for height, good looks, excellent education — both officers and men — skills in English and Cantonese, ability to drive on the left, and for a disinterest in business.

The selected soldiers were visited across the border yesterday by some of the Hong Kong Preparatory Committee, the 152-member group intended to design the new government. Major-General Liu Zhenwu, garrison commander, said the troops would — with permission from Peking — be used to "maintain public order and stability", and for disaster relief.

Clinton likely to reduce garrison in Okinawa

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND PERGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Clinton is expected to reduce the American military presence on Okinawa after a series of rapes which have inflamed Japanese opinion and threatened to undermine bilateral relations.

During a state visit to Japan in April, Mr Clinton is likely to announce that both the amount of land occupied by American forces and the number of their exercises should be diminished. There also may be a small reduction in the 47,000 troops stationed on the island, which constitute more than 75 per cent of United States bases in the country.

The Administration, facing strong criticism from the Okinawans, is negotiating a compromise it hopes will maintain a balance in the region at a time of highly sensitive relations between America, China and North Korea.

The decision comes in the wake of an alleged rape of a minor by a US serviceman and the trial of three other servicemen in connection with the kidnapping and sexual assault of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl last September. Prosecutors in the second case yesterday demanded 10 years' jail for the three men, who bound up the girl "with tape like some parcel".

The fallout from the attack on the girl, and the subsequent

rape of an American girl, is causing great concern in Tokyo, where pressure for the withdrawal of all American forces is growing. The Hashimoto Government fears that the pressure in Japan, combined with a "bring the boys home" mood in Congress could cause large reductions in US troop numbers.

On Friday, Takakazu Kuriyama, former Japanese Ambassador to the United States, gave a stark warning that the dispute over the US bases in Okinawa could derail US-Japan relations. In New York, Japanese women put a full-page ad in *The New York Times* calling for removal of all US bases in Japan, citing numerous crimes by US servicemen there.

Some Okinawans fear that any American withdrawal may injure the island's economy, estimated to generate more than \$1 billion a year from the US military.

Japanese officials are keen to make certain revisions to the Status of Forces Agreement, the key part of the 1960 US-Japan Security Treaty under which American forces are stationed in the region.

Delegates from Okinawa left on Monday for the United States to urge the US government officials and legislators to reduce bases in Okinawa. Their mission will further embarrass the Government in Tokyo, which is trying to patch together a compromise to satisfy the Okinawans while maintaining a credible US military presence.

In Tokyo, the Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, met the US Ambassador, Walter Mondale, to seek US co-operation in solving the problem of US bases in Okinawa.

On Tokyo, a court yesterday sentenced a US marine serving in Okinawa to 11 years' jail for killing his Japanese girlfriend with a hammer. (AFP)

Hashimoto talks with the US Ambassador

Leading article, page 15

Sex scandals sink US Navy's reputation

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

FOR an institution which has fought no major sea battles for 50 years and can proudly boast not an admiral killed in combat since 1944, the United States Navy must consider the last 18 months to be the most damaging in living memory.

In that time, five members of its top brass have been lost to sex scandals, charges of indecent assault have reached unprecedented levels, and the Pentagon has been forced to hold "sensitivity seminars" in an attempt to introduce the gentleman culture into the American officer class.

The most recent incident involves Admiral Richard Macke, until last month the commander of the Pacific Fleet. His less than diplomatic view of the rape in Okinawa of a 12-year-old

schoolgirl by three American servicemen cost him his command. He now faces a potential court-martial for allegedly using military aircraft to fly from Hawaii to the US on visits to various girlfriends.

If these were isolated episodes, the US Navy could perhaps point a collective finger of guilt at one man, but the service that spawned the romantic image of *An Officer and a Gentleman* is looking decidedly tarnished.

More than four years after the "Tailhook Scandal", the Las Vegas orgy that claimed the job of Lawrence Garrett, then Secretary of the Navy, the US Navy is seemingly unable to shake a post-Vietnam reputation for misogyny.

Since 1992, the department has logged more than 1,000 new cases of harassment

and more than 3,500 charges of indecent assault, from groping to rape, a figure nearly three times the national rate in the United States.

Excerpts from a new book, *Fall From Glory*, published by *Newsweek* yesterday, says sexual abuse is so embedded in the Navy that it may be impossible to root out. "Sailors have always been known for their bawdiness, but officers, at least, were supposed to be gentlemen. Then came Vietnam," says the book. "The Vietnam vets, and the exploitative sexual attitudes they developed in Asia, arrived home in the Seventies just as women were beginning to move into the ranks."

At the annual Tailhook convention of naval pilots in Las Vegas in 1991, 83 women said they were sexually abused.

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Beware the Rip Van Winkle syndrome

What daytime sleepiness may be trying to tell you

Not all patients with sleep problems complain of insomnia. Some are more concerned by excessive sleepiness during the day. But since disturbed nights are one of the causes of daytime catnaps, unwelcome tiredness and loss of attention are conditions which coexist.

Falling asleep at inopportune moments does not only occur during boring speeches or in front of the television set. The male habit of falling asleep after sexual intercourse, for example, causes considerable resentment in their partners.

In some cases there is a medical excuse. The man may be suffering from excessive daytime sleepiness, of which one of the causes may be narcolepsy. Narcolepsy is a syndrome marked by sleep attacks and cataplexy, the sudden loss of muscle tone. Other features such as sleep paralysis and hypnagogic hallucinations may be present, but can also be caused by many other conditions. Over the past ten years it has become increasingly apparent that narcolepsy has been too readily diagnosed, with the result that other causes of excessive daytime sleepiness have been ignored.

Professor David Parkes of the Maudsley Hospital in Denmark Hill, south London, who is an international expert on sleep problems, says: "Thank heavens that more care is being taken before the diagnosis of narcolepsy is made."

The diagnosis of narcolepsy in the past has sometimes been disastrous. For instance, some patients with sleep apnoea have not been diagnosed correctly and, therefore, have not had the treatment which might have helped them with potentially lethal conditions. Instead they have been labelled lazy or bored.

"Others who have been given a diagnosis of narcolepsy discover it can have far-reaching social consequences."

Although changes in the EEG (brainwaves) pattern of narcoleptic patients when they have a sleep attack are characteristic, and although all patients with proven narcolepsy have a particular tissue type (HLA-DR 2), experts believe the surest way of making a diagnosis

of narcolepsy is to reveal a history of both excessive daytime sleepiness and cataplexy. In cataplexy there is a sudden loss of muscle tone, to all intents and purposes a general paralysis, without any loss of consciousness. Given the right stimulant, which is usually elation, extreme happiness, fear or anger, the patient just crumples, rather as if an electric toy has suddenly been turned off.

Attacks of cataplexy can be precipitated by sporting triumphs. Textbooks tell the stories of athletes who had a cataplexic attack when they hit a much-needed six at cricket, or played a match-winning stroke at tennis. One of my patients suffered complete paralysis without loss of consciousness during a boat race.

Narcolepsy is most often confused with the excessive daytime sleepiness which is the result of the sleep apnoea syndromes. These patients repeatedly stop breathing for short periods while asleep. Usually, but not always, they are heavy snorers who snore more and more loudly until there is a pause, during which they stop breathing altogether. After a few seconds breathing is normally resumed and with it the snoring.

The cycle may be repeated 30 or 40 times a night and next day, not unnaturally, they are over tired, prone to sleep at inappropriate moments, and are a potential danger to themselves and to other people.

Usually patients with sleep apnoea are overweight, drink too much alcohol or smoke too many cigarettes. But sometimes it otherwise fit older people the tissues at the back of the throat and in the nasal spaces become flabby. These patients have an increased liability to strokes, heart attacks and accidental death, and deserve active treatment.

The treatment of excessive daytime sleepiness depends on its origins. If it is the result of narcolepsy, drugs of the amphetamine type are useful, as are some of the newer 5HT reuptake inhibitors. These, including some which have been available for many years, reduce the incidence of cataplexy and sleep paralysis.



DR THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

Six for a man, seven for a woman and eight for a fool?

SPECIAL REPORT ON Sleep

American experts say we could all use more hours' sleep. Jeremy Laurance casts an alert eye over the evidence

EVERYBODY, given the opportunity, can sleep more than they normally do. This is not just a question of having a lie-in at weekends. Research has shown that if people spend an extra two hours in bed beyond their normal time, they will sleep on average for one extra hour. Does this not prove that we are all sleep-deprived?

American scientists think that it does. They argue that we get less sleep than we need and would be more alert and energetic if we slept more. British experts concede that we could sleep more — just as we could eat, drink and have sex more — but say this proves nothing about how much we need.

The dispute, which has broken out in the pages of the journal *Sleep*, demonstrates how hard it is to win agreement on an activity about which everyone has an opinion.

Napoleon prescribed six hours' sleep a night for a man, seven for a woman — and eight for a fool. Margaret Thatcher was admired for her capacity to cope on five hours a night although this is not unusual in people in their sixties. We need less sleep as we get older.

Power is a stimulant that reduces the need for sleep and powerful people tend to dismiss it, as these examples show. People whose work is demanding but fulfilling find they can cut their sleep without ill-effects. Almost everyone has noticed times in their life when things have been going well and they have needed less sleep.

For most people, most of the time, seven or eight hours a night is the rule. But even this may not be enough, according to Dr Michael Bonnet, of the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Centre, Ohio. He and colleagues say in the current issue of *Sleep* that people sleep longer a century ago, most of us enjoy a lie-in, and tests show we are more alert



Late to bed, early to rise: poor sleepers can improve the quality of their sleep by restricting the time available for it, doctors say

as a result, especially in the early afternoon when people tend to feel drowsy.

In response, Professor Jim Horne of Loughborough University says he has looked at the evidence and found it not to be true. "There is no evidence that the Victorians slept longer. I suspect many people slept less at the turn of the century because they worked longer hours and had poorer sleeping conditions."

In support of Professor Horne, Dr Chris Idzikowski, chairman of the British Sleep Society, cites an article on sleeplessness published in the *British Medical Journal*. The hustle and bustle of daily life drives us all to insomnia, it said. The year was 1894.

For Dr Idzikowski, the transatlantic difference of view has more to do with medical investment than scientific research. Sleep deprivation is a major preoccupation of Americans and a nationwide network of sleep disorder centres has sprung up to

help them. "If they can create the impression that people are not sleeping as much as they should it helps to get people into the centres," he says.

Dr Idzikowski says that asking how much sleep we need is like asking how fast we should breathe. It depends on what we have been doing — and is mostly outside our control. A sprint for the bus will be followed by yawning as sleeplessness one night is followed by a fitful consciousness the next.

The greatest enemy of sleep is worry about the lack of it. Most people who lose sleep will recover it within 24 hours, and find it possible to cope in the meantime. Overcoming the fear of not being able to cope is one of the keys to conquering insomnia.

Professor Horne, director of the sleep research laboratory at Loughborough and Britain's most widely quoted expert on sleep, conducted the experiment in which people who spent an extra two hours in bed slept on average for one extra

hour. "Everybody can take more sleep but do we need it? We eat things when we are not hungry and we drink more than we need. Just because we can sleep more doesn't mean we need to."

Professor Horne concedes that the extra two hours in bed did make people more alert in the afternoon. But he says there is a better way of countering post-lunch sleepiness.

"If you do experience an afternoon dip, instead of losing two hours' productive wakefulness in bed, the best thing is to take a ten-minute catnap at lunch. It is the most efficient way of dealing with it."

There is a basic amount of sleep that we all require. Beyond that it is a very enjoyable time-filler, but it is not essential.

Within the animal kingdom, sleep is governed by metabolic rate — the speed with which energy is burnt up. Elephants, with a low metabolic rate, sleep for around three and a half hours while bats sleep for 15. There is, however, no evidence that busy human beings sleep more than lazy ones. The length of sleep does not tell us

anything about its quality. "The quality is extremely subjective. This is something that bedevils sleep research," says Dr Chris Hamming, director of the Sleep Disorders Clinic at Leicester General Hospital.

One way of improving the quality of sleep for poor sleepers is to restrict the time available for it. Doctors frequently find people who complain of insomnia are going to bed at 10pm and getting up at 8am. By staying up till midnight and setting the alarm for 7am, they can dramatically improve their sleep.

There is a simple test of whether or not you are getting enough sleep, widely ignored by those who complain of sleep problems. It is whether you feel sleepy during the day. "That is the acid test. If you are awake and alert you are obviously getting enough sleep," says Dr Hamming.

Sleepiness is not the same as tiredness. Sleepiness is caused by lack of sleep and solved by taking a nap or going to bed. Tiredness is marked by loss of interest, feeling miserable and having difficulty getting going. It is often attributed to poor sleep but is more likely to be caused by depression.

Power is a stimulant that reduces the need for sleep

How to get some rest without counting sheep

ALTERNATIVE SLEEP REMEDIES

For those having trouble nodding off, there is now a bewildering array of pills, potions and alternative remedies available to aid restful sleep.

Traditionally, weary fathers and mothers gave sleepless tots a malted drink at bedtime, relying on the reputedly sedative qualities of hops. A dash of whisky in milk is an old staple, as are warm honey or camomile tea. Recently, however, over-the-counter remedies have increased in popularity and pharmacy shelves reflect our appetite for more instant herbal and non-herbal sedatives.

Medimex, a liquid sedative, and Nytil and Somnex, which are both taken in tablet form, are sedatives based on the same active ingredient, after scientific researchers realised that the drug, traditionally used for hayfever and colds, caused drowsiness and could therefore be used as the main ingredient of a sedative. "These remedies are good at relieving temporary sleeplessness but should not be used for any length of time," Sharon Buckle, a pharmacist at Boots's headquarters, says.

Counter sales of herbal remedies — which contain extracts of plants with traditionally restful properties such as valerian, passionflower, hops and humulus, many of which have been used for centuries — have also increased in the past couple of years. Natrasleep, Somnus and Quiet Night, which are all taken in tablet form, are popular buys for sleep searchers and contain some or all of the above.

Others have turned to acupuncturists, trained herbalists, aromatherapists and psychologists. Some former insomniacs swear by the power of relaxation exercises. One of many devised by Jack Goodman, a London psychotherapist, involves visualising



A popular way to aid restful sleep is by the use of herbs

yourself moving down a staircase. As you take each step, repeat the words "dreamy, drowsy, heavy, sleepy". At the bottom, repeat the words until the power of suggestion pulls you into sleep.

Yoga is also said to be a great sleep aid. Judy Smith, a trained Iyengar teacher at the Maida Vale Yoga Institute, says deeper breathing exercises enable more oxygen to be sent to the brain, thus improving the quality of sleep. "Certain supported yoga postures, which stretch the body and nourish the brain, are also good for insomnia," she says.

Body rhythms are also buzz words for insomniacs. In 1991 Leon Lack, an Australian psychologist, discovered that shifting bright lights at insomniacs who persist in waking in the middle of the night can reset their body clocks and help them to sleep longer. Strong bands of light, similar to those used by sufferers of SAD syndrome or "winter blues", shone in the early evening, trick the body into thinking it is still daylight and encourage you to sleep further into the night later on.

Herbalists often see insomnia or disturbed sleep as a

symptom rather than a problem in itself. They will therefore offer remedies according to individual complaints such as stress or depression. However, insomniac potions often include wild lettuce (remember Beatrix Potter's floppy bunnies who became soporific in a bed of lettuce?), passionflower, humulus, camomile and lemon verbena, all of which traditionally have sedative qualities, as have extracts of catnip and skullcap, marjoram and nutmeg.

Aromatherapy oils are also a popular remedy. Lavender is perhaps the best known, but orange blossom, sandalwood and geranium essential oils, either added to the bath or dropped on to the pillow, are reputedly effective soporifics. Christine Stewart, a herbalist, says that many hospitals prefer to burn lavender oil in wards rather than give out sleeping pills. In Tibetan medicine, a traditional cure for sleeplessness is to add two to three drops of ginger essential oil into a base oil such as almond and rub it into the soles of the feet before bedtime.

An old Chinese remedy for insomnia is to use a pillow containing the mineral gypsum, which is likened to hops in its therapeutic qualities.

Chinese medicine, which centres around the balance of Yin and Yang energy in the body, uses a complicated series of herbs in combination to treat problems such as insomnia.

Jonathan Clogstoun-Willmott, from the Edinburgh Natural Health Centre, says Chinese belief has it that insomnia usually derives from a deficiency of Yin, or calm energy, in the body. Chinese medical practitioners use a combination of treatment herbs, messenger herbs

(to help the treatment on its way) and balancing herbs to treat problems. For insomnia, these might include an asparagus derivative, a traditional blood balancing herb, the root of Solomon's seal to clear the lungs and stomach, or lily bulbs to help the lungs.

Some insomniacs find homeopathic medicine, which uses the principle of like treating like, beneficial. It has a complicated diagnostic system but sleep treatments may include nuxvomica for insomnia generated by overwork and sulphur extracts for light sleepers. A trained homeopath should be consulted.

Others swear by acupuncture. Angela Farrant, a London-based acupuncturist,

says practitioners also see insomnia as symptomatic. "We look at the energy pathways of the individual and see where they are blocked. Often it is another problem causing sleeplessness but a course of acupuncture, using relevant points on the body, can relieve the problem and therefore the symptoms," she says.

But perhaps one of the most effective cures for the curse of sleeplessness was suggested in a letter to a national newspaper nearly two decades ago. The weary reader advised fellow insomniacs: "Try repeating the words, 'I'm a night watchman, I'm a night watchman' over and over," he wrote. "You will drop off in no time..."

KATHRYN KNIGHT

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Ready for the Tarantino remake of Macbeth?



Why bother to create a new film or television idea when you can endlessly recycle an old one? Joe Joseph gets an attack of déjà vu

Perceptive people often ask talented but struggling novelists: "If you're really so smart, how come you spend years writing one single novel when, at any bookstore, you could hand over £6.99 and buy a novel that has already been written by someone else, thus saving two whole years of your own life?"

This wisdom has hit Hollywood like a revelation. It has suddenly realised how much sweat you can save by getting others to do all the hard, creative work for you. This is why *Sabrina Fair*, made memorable by Audrey Hepburn and Humphrey Bogart in 1954, has just hit our movie screens again as *Sabrina*, starring Julia Ormond and Harrison Ford.

British showbiz has caught the bug, too. Hence the appearance of

brand new remakes of Galtion and Simpson's *Hancock's Half Hour*. The disease is spreading. Arnold Kopelson, who turned the TV series of *The Fugitive* into a movie, now wants to remake Hitchcock's *Dial M for Murder* and *Strangers on a Train*. Demi Moore has her eye on the Bette Davis classic *All About Eve*. Robin Williams is resurrecting *La Cage aux Folles* as *Birdcage*. Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani are starring in a new cut of *Les Diaboliques*.

Warren Beatty and Annette Bening have already remade a forgettable hash of *An Affair to Remember*. Even Marcel Carné's film of *Les Enfants du Paradis* will be resuscitated tonight at the Barbican, as a play directed by Simon Callow and performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Why? Maybe the showbiz world has

merely become so ecology-minded that it has discovered recycling. Or maybe, as Dorothy Parker noted, the only "ism" that Hollywood believes in is plagiarism. Either way, as far as cultural enjoyment goes, most of these remakes are about as exciting as watching flatworms mate.

"If there is a more turgid movie all year than Sydney Pollack's *Sabrina*, I hope I don't have to see it," wrote one Sunday paper critic. "Miraculously, Pollack made Billy Wilder's tight comedy leaden, like a chef turning a meringue into a bread pudding." In America, it was worse. "Remaking it," snapped one Californian reviewer, "is about as necessary as redesigning the Chrysler building or recording a top-hat version of Mahler's Fifth Symphony."

The reason Hollywood plumps for remakes is because it believes there is less risk attached: if audiences liked it once, then hell, they might like it again. Faced with green-lighting a \$40 million budget for a remake of a Hitchcock classic or a first-time script from an unknown petrol-pump attendant in New Jersey, the studio boss goes for the former. You have two minutes to pitch a story in Hollywood. Selling a story is easier if



Julia Ormond in *Sabrina*

you can say: "This movie is like X" and easier still if you can say: "This movie actually is X". By sprinkling this pitch with some awe for the industry's giants, you can reclassify the project as a cinematic homage.

The remarkable thing is that film vaults are rife in spite of the fact that most critical and box-office evidence suggests that financial fortune favours the brave. Original scripts — *Pulp Fiction*, *Seven*, *Forrest Gump*, *Lion King*

— have been the big earners in recent years.

The Hollywood recycling factory — a sort of real-life version of the movie *Groundhog Day*, in which TV weatherman Bill Murray is condemned to relive the same day over and over again — wouldn't be so bad if Hollywood were not the main arbiter of cultural life today. Its malign déjà-vu influence has spread. We can see it in the Forties fashions that have just been paraded up and down the catwalks of the Paris shows, and in the Sixties revival of everything from Beatlemania to lava lamps.

It comes as little surprise that wild-child Tarantino has become the latest movie-maker to twig that if you're going to remake something, you might as well pick the best: Shakespeare. What more could Hollywood want than a story that has riveted audiences for 400 years? Tarantino has his eye on *Macbeth*.

You can already imagine John Travolta and Samuel Jackson in the roles of Macbeth and Macduff, discussing what they call a McDonald's quarter-pounder with cheese in France. The script will only need slight retuning to Tarantino pitch: *Macduff*: "Woah, some goddamn

sonovabitch has taken out our royal master."

Lady Macbeth: "Numero Uno dead? You're kidding me, right? Jeez! In our house? Under our own goddamn roof? There's no way the boss is gonna dig on this."

Can you bear to wait for the premiere? I can, too.

Old father time

HOW COME more men are choosing not to have children until they are in their forties and fifties? Obviously because the earlier years of a man's life are busy with more intellectually enthralling experiences — like realising how easy it is for a chat about Proust and the power of memory to become so stimulating that within a very minutes, every man in the pub is taking part in a bloody fist-fight about who scored the winning goal in last year's Cup Final.

But, as Cary Grant and Charlie Chaplin found, being a pensioner parent has more going for it than you might at first imagine. For example, grandparents spend half their evenings and weekends babysitting for their grandchildren. Men have realised that if they delay starting a family long enough, they will still spend

their evenings as 60-year-olds changing nappies, but at least they will have had 40 years of freedom beforehand.

Being an older parent means that you will probably be better off, financially, than you would have been as a father at 22. This means that you and your young family can enjoy the comforts that cash can buy: so when you fly to the Caribbean on holiday, you will be able to afford club class seats for yourself, leaving it up to the air hostesses in economy to keep the children amused on the eight-hour flight to St Lucia.

Having long since lost your own teeth, sucking up the leftovers of a jar of "turkey and winter vegetable dinner" is also a more appetising prospect than it would be if you were 30 and hankering for steak. While watching old videos of *Watch With Mother* when you are 22 is merely depressing, watching them at 46 is called cultural nostalgia and thus becomes a fit subject for dinner-party talk with other 46-year-old fathers.

And finally a mature parent, realising that the world is a brutish place and that life is challenging enough, is less likely to name his daughter Fifi-Tribble.

Julia Llewellyn Smith talks to three mothers faced with a choice over Down's syndrome

The baby dilemma that won't go away

When the midwife arrived on her doorstep, Julie Cope was four months pregnant and excitedly preparing for the new baby. She was totally unprepared for the shattering news she was about to hear. Gently, the midwife explained that the results of a routine blood test showed that there was a higher than average chance Mrs Cope was carrying a child with Down's syndrome.

"I was in shock," says Mrs Cope, 35, a classroom supervisor. "When I took the test I didn't take it seriously. It was just routine. Then suddenly I was being told that I had a one in 130 chance of a baby with a defect. All I could think was 'there's something wrong with my baby'."

Modern medicine has brought women more choices than ever before, choices which, rather than reassuring us, can bring responsibility and fear. Most women think they would be fools to turn down a test that shows if they are carrying a child with abnormalities. But those who want this extra choice must realise that they may be letting themselves in for more serious tests and weeks of worry as they wait for the results.

Tonight on Channel 4, *The Decision* follows four pregnant women who must make these choices. Mrs Cope, who appears in the programme, had had a serum screening test (a blood test), offered by most health authorities, which identifies women with a higher than average risk of having a Down's child.

Once, only women over 35 were asked if they wanted to test for Down's: now, any pregnant woman has this choice, a logical step given that two-thirds of Down's babies are born to women under 35.

One woman in 20 who take the serum screening test will be found to have a higher than average risk. She must then quickly decide if she wants an amniocentesis (to remove and test the amniotic fluid in the womb), which can definitely diagnose Down's, but which carries a one in 100 chance of causing a miscarriage.

Of the women who have an amniocentesis, one in 60 will be carrying a Down's child. She must then choose whether to have the baby or, as the vast majority do, to terminate.

"The whole thing made me quite ill," Mrs Cope says. "If I had the amniocentesis I risked a miscarriage, but if I didn't I was left with all this uncertainty."



Julie Cope with Alexander; Tabitha Wilson with Chloe

ty. The hospital gave me excellent counselling, but they couldn't tell me not to worry, because there was a tiny chance that I did need it."

After two days of agonised decision-making, Mrs Cope chose the amniocentesis. "It wasn't for me, because even if the baby had Down's, I would have wanted it. But my husband felt he needed to know. He's a policeman and has a very stressful job. He couldn't bear the thought of waiting until the birth."

"I was at greater risk of

having a miscarriage as a result of the amniocentesis than of having a baby with Down's. But still I felt that I had no choice but to go through with it."

The result showed no abnormalities and a few months later Mrs Cope had a healthy son, Alexander. "I went through a great deal of unnecessary worry," she says. "I would never have those tests again and I would not recommend anyone else to have them either."

Gill Barnes, the producer of *The Decision*, says: "Many women go through needless agony as a result of these tests. They have been bonding with the child they are carrying and suddenly they have to detach themselves, to try to stop feeling anything for it, in case

she also knew that she could not cope with another handicapped child. "We love Rosie so much and we would not be without her, yet she does need a lot of attention, which another child with special needs would take away. Then there were the needs of my husband; the strain of having another Down's child would have been too much for him to bear."

Despite these fears, Mrs Wilson refused to have any blood tests, opting only for a detailed scan, a view which amazed many people.

"As far as I was concerned the tests were meaningless and I didn't want an amniocentesis because of the risk of miscarriage. I had to fight all the way through for the doctors not to give me tests."

She says: "One doctor told me: 'So you will be having the tests, seeing you have a handicapped child already.' I said 'No, I won't,' and he looked up in horror and said 'But of course you must! You can't have two handicapped children!' They treated us like a statistic, they hadn't found out about our circumstances. When I gave birth to a healthy daughter, Chloe, the relief was enormous."

Sharon Gillett also chose not to have an amniocentesis, even though her blood test showed that she had a one in seven chance of a Down's baby. "Everyone was shocked that we didn't want to know," says Mrs Gillett, 42. "At first the hospital put pressure on us to have an amniocentesis, but then they honoured our thoughts and opinions."

"Hearing that we had a one in seven chance was like a bombshell. But my husband and I had discussed the pros and cons and we'd decided that Down's babies were lovely. Whatever the result, we wouldn't have terminated and we weren't prepared to risk the miscarriage."

"I didn't want to know in advance, because one woman with a Down's child told me that knowledge had robbed her of her pregnancy. We decided to enjoy ourselves, to put all worries to the backs of our minds but to find out as much as possible about Down's, so we would be prepared for anything."

Mrs Gillett gave birth to a healthy daughter, Kelly. "When she arrived, we never

asked if she was OK, we were so excited we never gave a thought to it."

Every health authority has a different policy on antenatal tests. Some offer them routinely and free of charge; others make women under 35 ask, and pay for them. Professor Nicholas Wald of St Bartholomew's Hospital, who pioneered serum screening tests, says that he expects all hospitals will eventually offer them as a matter of course.

The tests will also become increasingly accurate, although they will never be able to identify every woman carrying a Down's child. "Women must understand that even if they are identified as being at a low risk, they are still not in the clear," Professor Wald says. "The Royal College of Obstetricians recommends that all women who take the tests are made aware of this."

"Screening does not reduce anxiety, it creates it," he says. "It is not intended to reassure you, in fact it will almost certainly have the opposite effect. You have to accept that if you want to reduce the chance of having a baby with Down's, you will have to take the test. I think in the end most people do want to feel they have had a choice."

● *The Decision* is on Channel 4 tonight at 9pm.

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INSIDE SECTION 2

Beneath the glaze of the new South Africa: Athol Fugard on tonight's British premiere of his new play, Page 37.

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Magnus Linklater on the basis of Scotland's educational success.

Political fallout from the Harriet Harman affair has begun to settle on an area where school selection is a forbidden concept: Scotland. Here the idea that education should be equally accessible to all is universal, performance of school-leavers a matter for self-congratulation, and the merits of the comprehensive system are widely extolled. Here, it is claimed, Ms Harman would have had no need to exercise parental choice. Scottish education, as the late John Smith often proclaimed, is said to be the best in Britain, and his successor, Tony Blair, looking round his Shadow Cabinet colleagues, would find no cause to doubt it. George Robertson, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook, Donald Dewar, Tom Clarke — every one is a product of an education system used by all save a small minority.

True? Possibly, but only up to a point. Why, otherwise, should a Scottish Office minister have felt the need to announce last week that he was setting up an inquiry into the management of Scottish schools, with particular reference to selection? Raymond Robertson, MP, said that he was asking his inspectors to look at "the respective merits of mixed-ability classes, setting and streaming. It will not be considered whether selection into schools but rather the use of selection within schools." His inquiry is probably justified. There are no grounds for complacency. Scotland has every bit as great a problem with crumbling schools and crowded classes as England. Parents still apply for places outside their catchment areas, or move to where there are better schools; there has been little attempt to root out bad teachers; resources are strained, and now, with the reorganisation of local government, hundreds of teaching jobs are at risk.

Nevertheless, no one (least of all Mr Robertson himself) would seriously argue that there should be a return to an overtly selective system. It would be political suicide. The commitment to a universally available education goes deep, and dates back to the landmark Scottish Education Act of 1872, which offered every child the means to proceed from the parish to the burgh school and thence to university. Today it is still the case that nearly 40 per cent of Scottish pupils go on to higher education, compared to England's 30 per cent — and the gap is widening. What is more, there is very little snobbery about fee-paying schools, save perhaps in the Muriel Spark sense in Edinburgh, where the superiority of certain establishments is a matter of fierce debate. Only 4 per cent of the Scottish population is privately educated, compared to twice that proportion in England.

Far from being a dirty word, the term "comprehensive" is a matter of some pride. Nor so long ago the headmaster of an Edinburgh fee-paying school boasted that his establishment was genuinely comprehensive

because it offered as many assisted places and scholarships as possible to those who could not afford to pay.

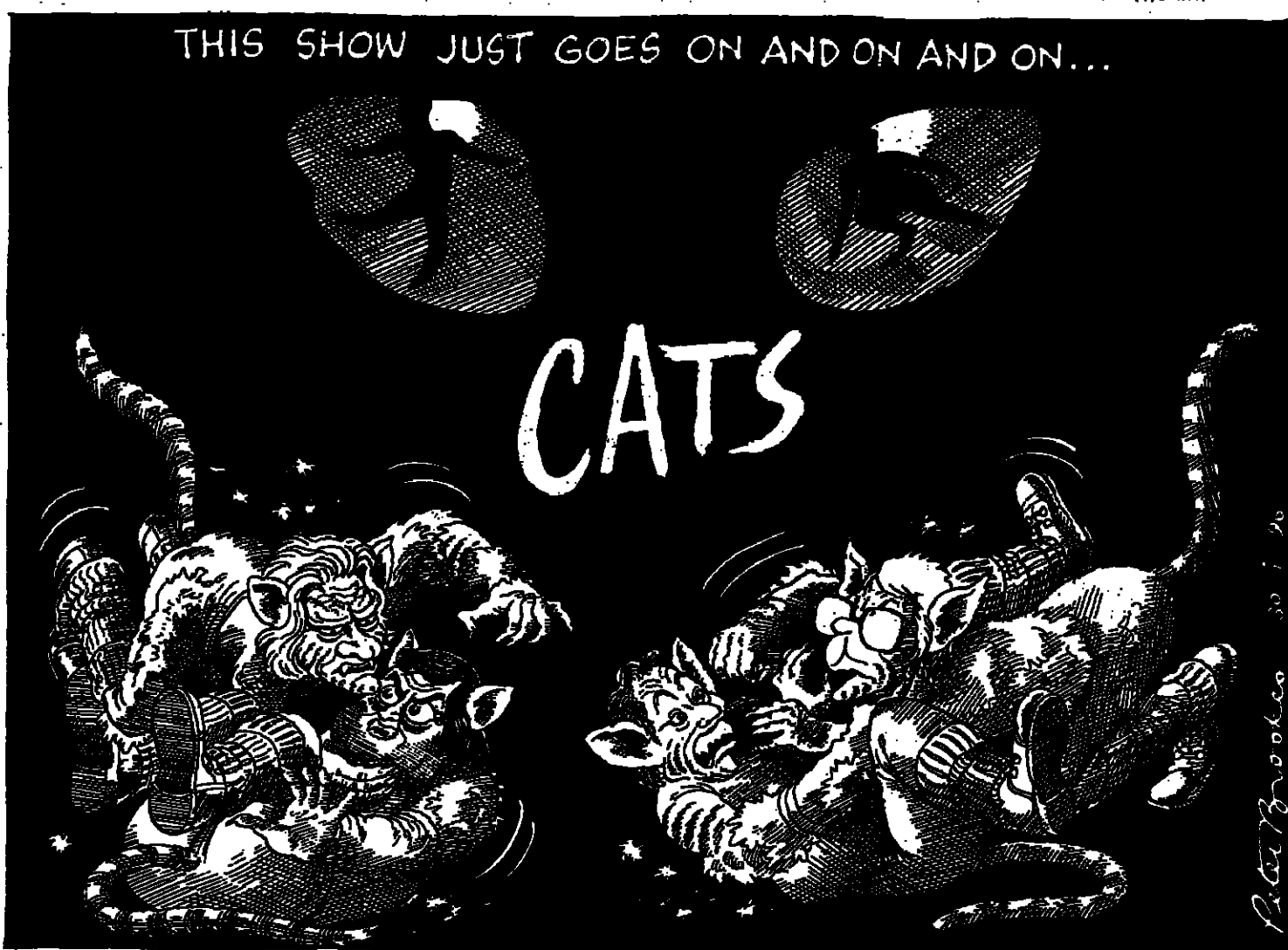
Parents who can pay frequently choose the nearest state school in preference to the private one, and those making their way up a career ladder will find it no disadvantage whatsoever to claim a background at Bearsden Academy or James Gillespie's, rather than, say, fee-paying Fettes or Glenalmond. It is perhaps for this reason that when the Government announced its "opt-out" policy, offering schools the chance to deal directly with the Scottish Office rather than with their local authority, just one school in the whole of Scotland came forward. That has since risen to two, with another possibly in the offing — but it has hardly been a headlong rush.

It would of course be absurd to suggest that there are no differences in standards between state schools in Scotland. There are serious worries about low academic performances, truancy rates, and all the problems associated with urban education. But the gap between best and worst is smaller than in most English cities, and it is interesting to note that when appointments fall vacant, head teachers move easily between the lowest and the highest performing schools. In anticipation of the changes that will take place when local government reforms come in this year, an association of heads has been formed to ensure that there is support for struggling comprehensives.

The real irony of the Scottish system is that despite what a former Scottish Secretary, Walter Elliot, called "a heritage of democratic intellectualism", selection lies at the core. A highly flexible internal procedure is operated by the teachers themselves. "Setting" and "streaming", which grades pupils according to ability, is inherent in the new 5-14 programme which guides pupils from the primary through to the secondary system. It allows them to join any one of five different levels for different subjects, particularly for English and mathematics, but it does not consign them forever to one particular stream. Inevitably it means that testing, which has aroused such opposition south of the border, is a basic part of the Scottish system.

So although Scotland boasts a fair and egalitarian approach to education, it is in some ways nearer to what the Tories would like to see in England than the system that Labour claims it wishes eventually to introduce. Spotting the brighter pupil and helping him or her to forge ahead is central to it. And if Mr Blair, who himself went to Fettes, wants to know more about it, he could ask Messrs Brown, Cook et al. All of them are products of the highly selective system which pre-dated comprehensives in Scotland. All were educated in the kind of place Ms Harman would be absolutely delighted with.

Fewer are educated privately, but more go to university



A Juliet from Braintree

Britain has so little to offer Sarah Cook that her marriage at 13 is no surprise

In a haze of sentimentality at new year, millions of us watched the BBC dramatisation of Rumer Godden's novel *The Peacock Spring*. It deals with an English schoolgirl in India, daughter of a British official. Dismissed by his sordid manoeuvres to pass his mistress off as her tutor and by the racial snobberies, she befriends the undergardener. They elope; the full weight of the Establishment is deployed to get her back, terrify her young man into abandoning her, and force an abortion. The child turns on her father with the timeless accusation of youth to age: "We had something beautiful, and you have made it ugly." In soft focus, with an edging of Raj nostalgia, she carried our sympathy all the way, and never mind the age of consent.

How curious, then, that while we wallowed in this variant on the Romeo and Juliet story, Sarah Cook of Essex, aged 13, was living it. Since October, indeed, she has been living with the family of Musa Komeagac, a Turkish teenager, in the small town of Kahramanmaraş. Since her not-quite-legal "wedding", she has shared a tiny flat with the family, with little privacy or comfort. She has covered her head, kept Ramadan, and spent the days helping her mother-in-law, Esma, with housework and learning the rituals of Islam. Three months on, she insists she is happy. And, poignantly, the big lumpish girl has told the world that in Britain she felt ugly but in Turkey she feels beautiful because she is loved. Teenagers in her home town blithely confirm to reporters that "everyone was horrible to her because she was fat and had ginger hair".

Sarah went on sweeping, learning to pray, making love and feeling beautiful for long weeks unmolested. Her headmaster went to the social services, who confronted her parents: before the "wedding", it is reported, they had decided to do nothing as long as Musa's parents undertook to make Sarah do her schoolwork. But now the issue has escalated into what E.M. Forster called "telegrams and anger". Musa is in prison for statutory rape. Sarah is a ward of court, the two Governments are sending one another tense little messages, and the headscarved bride is hugging dear old Esma and kissing the Koran in public defiance of the lot of them.

Faced with this extraordinary situation, in which a stout but masterful child deliberately casts aside home, family, education, culture and even

Christmas Day, we British did what we do best: we gobbled with indignation. Sarah's age was the most obvious target. It is, of course, acceptable in our culture for teenage magazines to instruct 11-year-olds how to perform oral sex, and for 13-year-olds to be put on the pill without parental knowledge. But this was different. Some early commentators blamed Sarah's situation on the "sexualisation" of our children and the bombardment of sleazy alluring child-woman images — which are indeed, any fool can see, loathsome.

But such attacks falter when you consider the strict religious and social code this particular child has embraced, and her explicit rejection of the groovy, sexy and druggy teenage world which in any case had always found her — fat, ginger-haired, squinting — rather beneath its notice. Whatever Sarah Cook has embraced, it is not a life of unbridled licentiousness.

The gobbling, however, became more intense when her choice of bridegroom was considered. The words "unemployed Muslim waiter" have been deployed again and again as if they were a string of insults. Poor boy: he was employed when Sarah met him, and who can blame a seasonal tourist-trade worker for not being busy in January? As for his religion, the sense of creepy horror in newspaper descriptions of Islamic life has been unrivalled since — well, since Jennima Goldsmith married Imran Khan. Then, the papers wailed that Jennima would have to give up her life of delectable dresses and nightclubs, and she demurely said that she didn't mind.

Now, there have been shocked reports of Turkish television being "meaningless to a girl whose favourite show was *Neighbours*". And headshaking pieces saying that girls of 13 ought not to be taking love seriously, but "listening to E!7 and practising kissing in the mirror". "Take her off to Top Shop before it's too late," advised one paper. The less

frivolous said: "Sarah has thrown away her life chances." This child, the consensus has it, should be back at her school desk in Braintree. And, given that her rather dim-sounding parents agreed to the escapade, many opine that she ought to be in council care.

What a bleak ending that would be to a youthful dream! Home to Britain: home to more contempt for not looking like Kate Moss, home to a Gradgrind education in a faltering and joyless system, and to the patronising patience of child "experts". Home, perhaps, to unmarried motherhood without the support of the Turks who have become her true family. Home to "teen" magazines which have so far given her little indication that they understand the brave — if rash — romanticism that made her break out of the system and declare herself, at 13 years old, alien to the dismal culture we have offered her.

Yet it is Britain which has failed her, not Turkey. It is easy to be 13 in Britain today and have seen nothing but the twirly, no hint of splendour or spirituality. C.S. Lewis saw this coming when he described Mark Studdock in *That Hideous Strength*, a man without either peasant shrewdness or aristocratic tradition, without either classical or scientific education, a "modern" and a sociologist, in whose mind "not one rag of noble thought, either Christian or Pagan, found a lodging". We are a nation of Studdocks now. If you do not have a family who expose you to good books, high culture and travel, or pass on a religion with old and beautiful scriptures, you are hard pressed at 13 to know where to look for inspiration.

If you live in a blighted atmosphere of snail, failed materialism if you folk traditions are long lost, your education is wearisomely focused on paper qualifications and your teachers are disillusioned; if your nation's nominal religion is a timid and dilute irrel-

evance, your local history concreted over and even the stars are invisible beyond the sodium glare of night-time in the Sainsbury's car park where the Braintree kids hang out — then where, Julia, can you look for what you need? Even if you look for love, you find it has been packaged and declared suitable only for those who fit the tight, unforgiving image of modern beauty. If you look for religion, some unforgiving cult may snap you up and feed you barren sawdust.

So when you go on holiday and find a blaze of warmth and rooted tradition and Muslim courtesy, a young man who says he loves you and a family that takes you to its bosom with songs and dances, what can stop you turning, like a sunflower, towards the light?

Even her parents were dazzled. Much patronising comment has been passed about the way that the Cook family came back from their first real foreign holiday in a daze. "He seemed to be really into it, this Turkey place," sniffs Mr Cook's brother. "He was constantly talking about how good it was out there and how he'd like to pack up and move." Unlike Spain, Turkey has not yet lost its innocence or its willingness to welcome outsiders. Even package tourists are not yet corralled into Costas with English-style pubs, away from local life. The Turks are hospitable and curious: a few years ago, travelling with two small children, we found ourselves solicited by a boy called Ishmael to walk up a mountain and see his Granny. So we did. Granny made us flat bread in her hands, over a hot stone; Ishmael's sister showed us how she spun yarn on a spiked ball, and they all laughed at our baby as she stared out their goats. We paid a few pence for the bread, but that was never the main point: they were just being sociable, and they blessed us as we parted. Meeting Musa's family, the Cooks trusted them with an immediacy of response which they were probably not in the habit of feeling back in Braintree. In our culture, after all, we are constantly warned against trusting anybody.

Romantic, unrealistic? Probably. And on balance I wish that somebody had been able to deflect Sarah Cook from her adventure, because it will plainly end in tears whoever wins. But I also wish it was not so shamefully obvious why a teenager from Britain should wish that she belonged in Turkey.

Ennui and the French

Woodrow Wyatt on the paralysis of Chirac's France

Unusually, the snow was falling heavily in Paris last Friday evening. The slippiness of the pavements matched the feeble mood of worry and helplessness now affecting France. It was accentuated in the Forté hotel I stayed in, where the staff reeled at Granda's intention to auction them — and the lift broke down.

There is a feeling that President Chirac keeps changing his policies because he cannot see a way through the financial and emotional crisis. France's balance of trade with the world is favourable, but it is bought at the expense of rising unemployment, which is now approaching 13 per cent. The internal deficit is advancing steadily beyond £40 billion! This is due to years of cosseting of state employees and overspending under socialist governments. In large parts of the country, up to 45.5 per cent of youth under 25 are unemployed. There is a backlash against immigrants, illegal or otherwise, mainly from Algeria. Two to three hundred cars are burnt in cities throughout France every night in mindless protest.

The Finance Minister, M. Jean Arthuis, whom I met briefly at Vincennes on Sunday, was confident as he gave his views on television on the Prix d'Amerique. France's great trotting race, which attracts far more betting than any flat or jumping horse race. But there is general agreement that his Government's handling of the strikes against cuts in pensions for civil servants and state industrial employees was disastrous. Many French railway workers retire at 50 with a pension of only 70 per cent of full pay. More than 350,000 former rail employees or their dependants are now receiving pensions, whereas only 182,000 are at work. The Government pays £2.67 billion of the £3.6 billion annual rail pensions bill.

The proposal of the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, that rail and other state workers should work for 40 years before becoming eligible for full retirement benefits, as people in the private sector do, provoked last month's three-week strike, which paralysed the country. In a climbdown, M. Juppé withdrew his proposals, but he still plans to cut costs in state health and pension programmes, which is likely to produce a week of union protest in February. If the Government's attempts to slash what amounts to social welfare spending had succeeded, it would have been good in itself. But the chief purpose was to prepare France to meet the Maastricht requirements for the single currency.

As my charming neighbour at dinner the evening before the Prix d'Amerique remarked, "We depend completely on Germany." "After all those wars in which Germany so often defeated you and we so often helped you?" I inquired. "The memories of the battles you won against us are more bitter than the wars with the Germans," she said.

Though there is considerable appreciation of John Major's brave defence of France's nuclear tests, the French correctly see the British as unlikely partners on the road to a single currency and a federal union of Europe. "You are surrounded by the seas and look more to America than Europe," my elegant neighbour said. "They have outgrown us, but they are our children," I replied. "They have inherited our laws and our style of democracy and we speak the same language."

At the same table, former Mitterrand ministers mingled with Chirac ministers. I suspect that they all agreed with my neighbour on the left and the clever lady on my right, the wife of a prominent minister in the former regime, that the British are not *communautaire*.

Oh dear, why do we like the French so much more than they like us? Perhaps it has a little to do with might-have-beens. The French are fascinated by monarchy. They ask endlessly about the Queen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, for whom there is enormous respect and admiration. They delight in gossip about the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of York and minor royals. But being more adult than us in such matters, they see no threat to the Crown from their wayward activities. French Presidents are apt to regard themselves as kings. They are accompanied by more panoply, and simultaneously by more privacy, than our Sovereign and her family.

Temporarily France has lost its customary self-assurance. Several times over the weekend I was pessimistically asked whether I was hopeful about France's future. My answer was that the strength of French exports shows how productive and ingenious they are. The Government has had a setback, but it should not be dismayed. It should try and try again to reform the unions and the crippling social welfare system. It should forget its pride over the *Franc fort*: the present rate of exchange is not sustainable, just as our position in the exchange-rate mechanism was not. The French are hobbled by artificial constraints which I am sure, as the logical people they are, they will sweep away before long.

Shelf death

THE VICTORIAN way of death is to be revived. Brompton Cemetery's catacombs, which closed their doors to the dead in 1911, are to reopen for "deposits" under the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

A mere bone's throw from Harrods, the catacombs house 1,200 lead-lined coffins (some of them rotting), which are occupied by members of the Victorian bourgeoisie.

Today, the Royal Parks Agency, which runs Brompton Cemetery, will discuss proposals for new inmates with graveyard contractors who have responded to its advertisements in funerary magazines.

Among those buried in Brompton Cemetery are the suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, John Wisden, who published his first cricketers' almanack in 1864 to promote his sports business, and "Gentleman" John Jackson, a 19th-century boxer who was hired by George IV as a bouncer at his coronation.

But the catacombs were the fashionable alternative to standard burials at Brompton. They were a Victorian conceit allow-

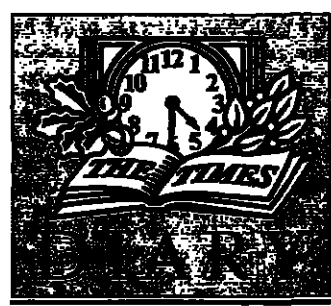
ing people to be laid to rest above ground.

The Royal Parks Agency says there is plenty of shelf-room for more coffins in the catacombs. It is confident of the financial potential — the cost of being entombed in the catacombs is likely to range from £1,500 to £3,000. "The money would be used to restore the catacomb buildings," said one source. "There's still plenty of room for the dead."

● *Southwark Cathedral, the platform for Tony Blair's speech yesterday in which he voiced his concern over the standards in inner-city schools, was an appropriate choice. Southwark was the original home of Harriet Harman's favourite grammar school, St Olave's — now moved to Orpington — and the cathedral still plays host to the school's annual commemoration service.*

Carved up

THINGS ARE looking up for Sir Rocco Forte, who bade an emotional farewell yesterday to the troops at his former headquarters in Lon-



don. His car — which he crashed on the eve of Granada's victory over his empire — has just been repaired.

The crash was kept from the press at the time, but Sir Rocco was pooling along in his Daimler by St James's Park in Westminster a couple of Sundays ago. His mind was firmly on Gerry Robinson and Granada when his front door was pranged. Unusually, Rocco had taken to the wheel rather than relying on his chauffeur.

Family first

THE SINGING at Twickenham for the match between Wales and England this Saturday won't be as lusty as usual. Neil "boyo" Kinnoch, one of the great songsters of the rugby, is having to put family duty first.

The match had been a firm fixture in his diary, but sadly it clashes with a visit to his son's future in-laws. I disclosed last year that Stephen Kinnoch, who works in "economic development" in Brussels, is to marry his Danish girlfriend, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, in Copenhagen. And rugby fixtures are not part of the Danish consciousness.

"Glenys and I are going to Copenhagen to meet the intended in-laws for the first time," says Neil. "To miss the game is breaking my heart. I don't mind telling you."

● *As television image-makers tell the Labour Party to shave off their beards, my mind turned once more to Tony Blair's friend Peter Mandelson and his moustache. Talk in Westminster is that he shaved it off when it began going grey. Miraculously, his hair remains ink-black.*

Ear ear

THE PUNTER'S favourite, Kelvin MacKenzie, former Editor of *The Sun* and now head honcho at *Live TV*, treats his employees as he does his own family. His son Haydn can attest to that.

The Kelvinesque initiation ceremony requires arrivals at his Canary Wharf lair to dress up as the



Thumbs-up from the Bunny

News Bunny — a character he invented to brighten up bulletins by hopping about behind the news presenter, and responding to items with a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down.

Enjoying some work experience in his father's empire, Haydn was reluctant to perform as the bunny. But with a few gentle words and the customary "bollocking", he was soon to be seen bounding about for Britain.

● *On the first day of rehearsals yesterday for Harold Pinter's pro-*

duction of *Twelve Angry Men*, one cast member was missing. E.G. Marshall, who played Juror 4 in the classic film of the play starring Henry Fonda, plays the Judge in this West End version. His character doesn't appear on stage, so he was able to record his lines in the comfort of his home in New York State.

Missing you

BRUCE WILLIS was the odd man out at Stocks nightclub in Chelsea's King's Road on Friday. He was lost in a sea of former pupils from Gordonstoun's sister school in Switzerland, Aiglon College, at the annual reunion.

Despite the sweaty nature of the occasion — Aiglon is a mixed school — the Hollywood hunk was sporting a woolly hat throughout and looked surly behind his moustache and bodyguards. He was there with a friend who had been to the school where Roger Moore and Sophia Loren sent their children. "He turned down my complimentary glass of champagne, and said he wanted a jug of orange juice," says Aziz Suleman of Stocks. "I think he's on a health-kick, and was missing his wife."

P.H.S



IT TOOK A RAPE

One crime in Okinawa opens a whole box of trouble

The angry citizens of Okinawa, a small island distanced from Japanese political life by history, culture and a wide expanse of sea, have abruptly acquired a central role in America's strategic thinking. The island plays reluctant host to 26,000 of the 48,000 US troops stationed in Japan, on bases which take up a quarter of Okinawa island. For decades, Japanese politicians have all but ignored Okinawan complaints that this disproportionate concentration of US troops treats their land as a "dumping ground".

The abduction and rape of a young girl last September, for which three black American servicemen are on trial, changed that easy indifference overnight. Four fifths of Okinawans are now demanding a steep reduction in US bases; their Governor has refused to renew a clutch of leases; and the movement for Okinawan independence from Japan has surged. In Japan, the public consensus on the US-Japan Security Treaty, unequivocally described by the Pentagon as "the linchpin" of American strategy in Asia, has begun to develop its first serious cracks since the anti-US riots of 1960.

Trapped between the need to respond to popular anger and his Foreign Ministry's well-founded anxiety not to do anything that would open the treaty to question, Ryutaro Hashimoto, the new Japanese Prime Minister, has promised to negotiate the removal of some bases to Japan's "home" islands. But that is easier said than done. Japanese and American officials are struggling to find a compromise before President Clinton arrives in April, for a visit whose centrepiece is supposed to be a joint declaration reaffirming the treaty's central importance in the US-Japanese relationship. But because no municipality in Japan is keen to offer alternative bases, the quest for a solution keeps the Okinawa incident firmly in the headlines.

This is precisely what both sides want to avoid. Any talk of "renegotiation" is anathema to the Pentagon, at a time when voices on Capitol Hill are beginning to question the need to spend \$35 billion on maintaining 100,000 troops in Asia. Critics argue that Japan is quite wealthy enough to assume the costs of its own defence, now that the Soviet threat to Japan is over. If Mr Hashimoto makes the first move, he could find that such arguments developed an unstoppable momentum, with the risk of deep cuts in America's military presence in Asia. For the Japanese Establishment, there is powerful poison in this Pandora's Box, because any change to Japan's total reliance on the American security umbrella would bring into question Article 9 of the country's postwar "peace constitution", under which it renounced the right of belligerence.

The Okinawa incident thus feeds directly into a much broader political debate in Japan on previously taboo subjects such as sovereignty, national responsibility and the conversion of its economic strength into international political influence. Ochihiro Ozawa, the leader of the Japanese Opposition, has led this debate, arguing that it is high time for Japan to become "a normal country" — militarily as well as politically.

This debate cannot be wished back into the box. But America and Japan have the strongest mutual interest in caution. The American military presence in Japan is still vital, as a counterbalance to China, a deterrent to North Korea and a necessary reassurance to Japan's Asian neighbours — who are already engaged in the world's fastest arms race. Neither can afford to downplay the central strategic argument for the security treaty: it is the only serious force for stability in a region which has yet to put behind it the perils of the Cold War.

COULD DO BETTER

Labour is moving on education, but not far enough

Tony Blair is determined not to give an inch of ground on education to the Tories. After the Harman affair a period of silence on Labour's part might have been welcome, but last night at Southwark Cathedral Mr Blair returned to the offensive. His courage does him credit, but his counter-attack shows that there is still some way to go before his party's education policy finds coherence.

Mr Blair's Southwark speech was not designed to address education only. It was conceived as a thoughtful survey of social issues on the tenth anniversary of the Church of England's report, *Faith in the City*. Mr Blair sought to sketch out what his stakeholder vision means for social policy and to review how concerns about a fracturing society voiced ten years ago had been met.

But education lay at the heart of the speech. Knowing how much any comments on schools would attract after the recent battles, Mr Blair rose to the challenge. He outlined new ideas to deal with some of the difficulties laid bare last week. The debate which followed Harriet Harman's rejection of her local comprehensives had a resonance beyond Westminster because her actions encapsulated widespread parental worries about levelling-down. Mr Blair tried to tackle head-on his chief problem: how to encourage excellence in the state sector, without conceding the case for selection.

His answer is accelerated learning, a means of allowing talented pupils to leap ahead of their classmates and tackle courses appropriate to their abilities, irrespective of age. The recognition that mixed ability

teaching currently fails our most gifted pupils, not to mention those at the bottom, is welcome. But Mr Blair's answer is not wholly convincing. The experience of youthful prodigies mixing with their elders is not a happy one. The precocious may have their minds stretched but they can become impoverished socially, denied the benefits of continuous contact with those who are maturing at the same pace.

A method already exists of ensuring the broad social mix that supporters of state education want, while allowing the able to find their own level. It also, unlike accelerated learning, keeps pupils of similar ages together. It is selection, and it is the uncontested choice of socialists and social democrats across Europe. From Austria to The Netherlands, a consensus underpins a system which shepherds children into the most appropriate school for their abilities and attainments. Rather than transplant an exceptional 11-year-old into a group who are much more mature it would place him in a class with children of equal ability, and age.

Mr Blair's bravery may lead him to re-fight the education battle every week before election day but he will not win so long as he dodges the logic of selection. Ancestral opposition to the crudity of the 11-plus should not stop new Labour from exploring how selection guarantees diversity, fosters specialisation and makes for a more meritocratic society in other modern European states. Mr Blair took on the fundamentalist faction in his party over common ownership; he should do the same on comprehensives.

AN EXILED MIND

Gratitude to a great Russian who taught us English

When the Russian poet and critic Joseph Brodsky died in New York on Sunday, so did the teacher of Helen Handley and Ann Sherrill Pyne, just two of the English-speaking students who learnt from him about their own poetry, their own language and each other. Although Brodsky has been justly celebrated at his death as a Nobel laureate, prison-camp survivor and, in the words of *The Times* obituary today, "the great post-war poet of memory", to these two women from Columbia University he was also the thick-voiced foreigner who taught them about W. H. Auden. And in teaching about Auden, he taught about how to write, how to live and how living and writing are linked.

Brodsky became most famous in America for the essay *Less Than One*, which described his childhood consciousness of communism in Leningrad. But in the same essay collection there was also an extraordinary lecture on Auden's poem, *September 1, 1939*, part of a poetry course which Brodsky created for his new countrymen after he was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1972. This was the piece which Handley and Pyne took the trouble to record and transcribe. Brodsky would surely not have considered it his finest memorial but, in a curious way, it has its claim: within this work of teaching lies all the strength of discipline, detail and authority with which the rescued Russian exile can reward those who rescued him.

Auden was himself one of the first to receive Brodsky in America. One wartime refugee found the will to help another. Auden had written *September 1, 1939* in his great series of explorations of Europe from the US: in the course of the work, Auden cites a third great political and literary exile, the Athenian historian Thucydides. Brodsky, draw-

ing on his Russian imprisonment and his harsh separation from his family, piles up a mountain of wisdom on democracy, morality and literature — then brazenly displays it for his students.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to set against Brodsky's early death is the reason it gives us to read his words again — complete with their poor pedagogical jokes, ironic hautesurs and barely concealed Slavic accent. This column is not the place to distil his essence. If we tried to compress the meaning of Auden for Brodsky into the next hundred words, we would be claiming powers that we do not have — an act worthy of a sneer from both poets and from Thucydides too.

But no reader, then or now, could miss Brodsky's rare and supreme confidence in the hard work of critical understanding; how he lectured his students on the essentials of poetry, the way that "rhyme turns an idea into law", the way that nouns can be rhymed but "verbs you shouldn't", and rhyming adjectives is taboo; how he sensed his listeners' peace-born contempt for past events ("well, a little bit of history shouldn't hurt, should it?") and challenged them with their carelessness ("the author of this poem, as you already know, having been made to learn it, is a critic of this century").

He never deviated from his conviction that the teaching of his chosen poem was important. When he linked Auden's criticism of this century with Auden's self-criticism, he concluded: "If you think that there are other referees for successful poetic operation, you are in for oblivion." No student of Brodsky has an excuse for critical oblivion. Nor will that ediled mind face oblivion itself — not for as long as some men and women read and others are driven by politics from their homes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Flaws of principle in draft new BBC Charter

From Mrs Jocelyn Hay and others

Sir, We should heed the warning by the Bishop of Southwark and other peers, given in the Lords on January 9, that the arrangements to represent the regions of England proposed in the draft new BBC Charter are unfair and inadequate.

These proposals would remove both the existing advisory bodies for England and the BBC General Advisory Council — a nationwide body on which all regions of England have been well represented, as well as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Each of the three latter countries would retain its own broadcasting council and, although some of the powers of these councils would be withdrawn to the BBC board of governors, each would keep a representative governor on the board and a right to be consulted about programmes and policies in their respective countries.

In its 1994 White Paper on the future of the BBC the Government rejected such a council for England. Instead, last February, the then Under Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage, Mr Iain Sproat, promised the Commons that England would have ten regional councils and that their chairmen would, together, constitute an English Regional Forum. However, the BBC has since blocked the creation of such a forum, and only the regional councils appear in the new draft Charter. Mr Sproat's alternative bodies will thus be powerless.

A Charter provision establishing a forum for the regions of England

would provide a powerful force to counter an increasing tendency to centralism within the BBC. Such a forum would place regional broadcasting at the heart of the corporation's policy-making, and it would help to prevent resentment if the three existing national governors act in concert on regional concerns.

The Government should ignore the BBC's ambivalence. It should take the advice given in the Lords and make proper provision for England before the Charter returns to the Commons in a few weeks' time.

Yours faithfully,
JOCELYN HAY
(Chairman,
Voice of the Listener and Viewer),
NIGEL SMITH
(Chairman, Broadcasting for Scotland),
MHAIRI BEYNON OWEN
(Chairman,
The Broadcasting Campaign for Wales),
Voice of the Listener and Viewer,
101 King's Drive, Gravesend, Kent,
January 26.

statement, but only after further consultation with its audiences.

As a new mechanism, its existence in the Charter, let alone its potential, are not widely appreciated. Anticipating this, the then Under Secretary of State at the Department of National Heritage, Viscount Astor, wrote to us in March 1995:

We intend that a model of the Statement of Promises should be laid in broad outline before Parliament at the same time as the new draft Charter and Agreement. My officials are currently discussing with the BBC the nature of the commitments in the Agreement, and the detailed content of the Statement of Promises.

Last November the BBC produced this vague "model" statement, lacking detail on children's programming, education or any of the yardsticks on regional broadcasting we have been led to expect by the Secretary of State for National Heritage. There seems to have been little consultation within the BBC, certainly none outside it. It appears that the board of governors may not have seen or approved it.

If, at the outset, this unacceptable model is allowed to set the standard, the statement of promises will be of little practical value to audiences and its potential squandered. The BBC ought to make good this lapse by giving some early public assurance as to how it will consult widely before publishing the first statement.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL FRASER
(Chairman,
Broadcasting for Scotland,
74 Victoria Crescent Road, Glasgow,
January 26.

Lottery grants for individual merit

From Mr H. H. Shaw

Sir, The change of rules to allow individual sporting and artistic grants from the National Lottery (reports, January 23) should, I believe, be cancelled or amended.

There is no more selfish pursuit than that of personal excellence, whether as an artist or an athlete. However good for the nation sport or "culture" may be, those engaged perform primarily for their own success and self-esteem, often putting all other considerations aside.

Those successfully engaged in sport and theatre are gathering cash and kudos to themselves these days at a staggering rate. Why should public money be poured into personal sponsorship? If the performance is good enough, commercial sponsorship will follow.

Capital grants offer facilities for all. Personal grants will reduce the amounts available for capital projects.

Yours sincerely,
H. H. SHAW,
8 The Toppings, Bredbury,
Stockport, Greater Manchester,
January 23.

From Mr Howard Royce

Sir, Mr Bottomley's announcement of lottery grants for the training of sportsmen and sportswomen is to be welcomed, but with some reservation.

Many people in the United Kingdom are sick and tired at the recurrence of "black weekends" when our national teams are beaten at football, cricket and rugby. If spending money is the solution, then so be it.

However, it may be the case that our sporting skills are too thinly spread, from the profusion of minority sports in the last 20 years or so. The lottery money should be restricted to those mainstream sports at which we are traditionally competitive — a short list, perhaps, of the three aforementioned sports plus athletics and other Olympic events. Leave the rest to the plucky amateurs.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD ROYCE,
Birchfield Gardens,
Mulbarton, Norwich, Norfolk,
January 23.

From Mr Andrew M. Clark

Sir, The news about lottery subsidies for upcoming sportsmen and artists has left me wondering where the executors of this phenomenal financial resource get their priorities from.

The young people dropping out of third-level education nowadays because of student loans and reduced grants could, to my mind, have had the potential to contribute more to society than another mention in *The Guinness Book of Records*.

Yours faithfully,
A. M. CLARK,
10 Glen Park,
Portlough, Co Londonderry,
January 23.

Bishops' residences

From the Bishop of Exeter

Sir, I was pleased to see Mr Ancrum Evans's letter on bishops' residences (January 18) giving the opposite view to the Reverend Francis Bown's, alleging failure to use them for entertaining and supporting the clergy.

In 1994 the count of parish clergy and their spouses coming into this house and grounds for sit-down meals was 146 and for light refreshments 501. The overall total of those who came that year for hospitality, business, and community and cultural events was 5,065.

Knowing my colleagues as I do, I have no reason to suppose that these figures are anything but average for such premises.

Yours faithfully,
THEWLETT EXON,
The Palace,
Exeter, Devon,
January 19.

No maiden flight

From Mr George Speaight

Sir, May I correct a small error in your obituary of Giles Playfair (January 24)? Although Giles was one of the only two members of the Oxford University Balloon Union, he did not actually ascend with Tallulah Bankhead in its inaugural (and only) flight in, I think, 1930.

Although Miss Bankhead is said to have asked Giles's father, Sir Nigel Playfair, to "call me Balloonah", the only passenger on that occasion was the union's other member, my late brother Hugh.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SPEAIGHT,
6 Maze Road, Kent Gardens,
Richmond, Surrey.

Victims of crime

From Mrs Marian Cohen

Sir, I have just heard Mr Michael Heseltine speak of the Conservative Party's sympathy for victims of crime (report, January 29).

Why then is it about to reduce the levels of compensation payments to victims of unprovoked attacks by reducing the level of payments made by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board?

Yours faithfully,
MARIAN COHEN,
Montague Lambert & Co
(Solicitors),
37-38 Haver Green, Ealing, W5,
January 29.

Irish peace process

From Mr R. D. Jackson

Sir, Mr Barry Lillis (letter, January 29) points to the "simplicity" of Lloyd George's truce offer to the IRA in 1921. There is only one response yes, and look what has happened in the intervening 64 years.

Yours faithfully,
R. D. JACKSON,
Downend,
Hoggarde Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent,
January 29.

Disk trouble

From Mr Philip Warner

Sir, It looks to me as though Mr Simon Dobbs, who is daunted by the cost of "backing up" his computer (letter, January 24), has not been well advised.

However large his hard disk, he need only back up any "data" (the last pages of his novel, his accounts, this week's payroll) that may have changed since the previous back-up. This will probably take a few seconds and barely fill one small diskette. He then puts this somewhere else, not beside the computer, in case of an office fire. A computer can easily be set up to remind one to do this before switching it off.

His hard disk may be filled with many megabytes of "applications" (his word processor program, spreadsheet program, "windows", etc), but these need not be backed up. Their unchanging duplicates are still on the disks in the boxes in which (we hope) he legally bought them. He can easily install these on another computer if he "crashes".

Writing this counsel of perfection reminds me that I have not backed up for weeks. The longer a hard disk seems to be working perfectly, the less one nervously backs up. Then, one morning... crash!

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP WARNER,
Sherborne House, Lakewood Road,
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire,
January 24.

Family businesses

From Mr John Raybould

Sir, Three cheers for the entrepreneurial spirit of Mr Alfred Forte who admits that "selling ice-cream in Berwick at this time of the year is not the easiest way of making a living" (report, January 26). Mr Forte, second cousin of Sir Rocco, apparently runs a small family-owned ice-cream parlour and café in Berwick-upon-Tweed.

His business, like so many "Mom & Pop" establishments, has survived 75 years through the Depression, the Second World War and the "stop-go cycle" since 1945.

Mr and Mrs Forte (Northumberland branch) surely stand as a tribute to the thousands of small businessmen and women working all hours of the

Prison staffing

From the Editor of The Prisoners' Handbook

Sir, The announcement that the Prison Service is to cut the number of prison officers by almost 3,000 (report, January 27) will have a profound effect on control inside our penal system, and the tragedy is that a more effective solution to the problem of overstaffing is already well known.

The working practices of the English Prison Service have long been the dictate of the Prison Officers' Association. Despite the fact that less than 20 per cent of prison officers actually work with prisoners in the cell blocks, all officers are on one unified pay grade, on average £18,000. Increments above the basic level are dependent not so much on responsibility as length of service.

Paying all these officers at the same rate, when only a small proportion actually deal directly with prisoners, is

at the root of the massive problem of staffing costs.

A year ago the Scottish Prison Service tackled this problem by introducing a radical restructuring which placed prison officers into one of five pay bands; those in the cell blocks who took the most risks received the most money while those, for example, who manned the prison gate received less — meaning cuts in pay of up to £5,000 per annum.

Had the Home Secretary adopted this approach, there would be no need for these inept staffing cuts. Given that the Strangeways riot in 1990 cost the taxpayer almost £60 million, these cuts will probably result in far more expense at the end of the day than current figures suggest they will ever save.

Yours sincerely,
MARK LEECH,
Editor, *The Prisoners' Handbook*,
PO Box 27,
Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4BX.

US orchestras

From Mr Humphrey Burton

Sir, In attempting a trans-continental survey of American orchestras, I life "Five got in search of their former glory". Arts, January 25) your correspondent Jamie James was forced back on generalisations which are contradicted by my own recent experience.

Far from losing its lustre, the Boston Symphony Orchestra recently confirmed its position as the world's foremost commissioner of orchestral music — a subject not discussed in your report — by giving several confident and sensitive performances of Sir Michael Tippett's latest and reportedly last composition, *The Rose Lake*.

The composer was present both in Boston and at New York's Carnegie Hall: the standing ovations he received were heartfelt, and his gratitude to the Bostonians and their devoted music director Seiji Ozawa appeared equally profound.

A few days later, also at Carnegie Hall, I heard another distinguished American orchestra, the Pittsburgh Symphony, whose recent achievements were inexplicably overlooked by your correspondent. During his ten-year tenure as music director, now coming to a climax with a major European tour, Lorin Maazel has developed Pittsburgh — of whose violin section he was once a teenage member — into an ensemble that can claim equal status with the so-called Big Five (New York, Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Boston).

Conductors, one can't help feeling, transform good orchestras into great ones: in Ozawa and Maazel, Boston and Pittsburgh have benefited inculcably from the presence of two of the world's best.

Yours sincerely,
HUMPHREY BURTON,
123 Oakwood Court, W14,
January 26.

Ten years on...

From Lord Rix

Sir, You remind us in your feature, "And then it was up to us" (January 26), that ten years ago, when the paper was first compiled at Wapping, there was a leader where every full stop was followed by a new paragraph. May I remind you that opposite that editorial was an article by me (in my then capacity as secretary-general of Mencap) headed "Give charity basic relief", whose typography was correct in every detail, down to the last sentence.

In this article, I pleaded with the Treasury that "individuals and businesses who make contributions to charitable organisations would all be allowed to set these off against taxable income, without following the covenant route".

I'm happy to report that the Chan-

cellor of the day — Nigel Lawson — must have been reading that first Wapping issue, for he clearly agreed with my suggestion that "all it needs is the Chancellor to recognise the benefits bestowed and it could be part of this year's Budget".

It was, and the first faltering steps were taken in the direction of payroll giving and gift-aid.

Improvements have followed over the years but with the fundamental change in income tax just around the corner, involving self-assessment, how splendid it would be if all gifts, from the widow's mite to the tycoon's tens of millions, could be free of minimum and maximum restrictions.

Yours etc,
BRIAN RIX
(Chairman, Mencap),
House of Lords,
January 26.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

committed to take his trial at the next assizes. Each of the other three was subsequently taken, and, conclusive proof having been given, the prisoner was committed on each charge. Warrant was issued against Slenderman and Ben Wilson, the solicitor of Sergeant Thompson, of the Police Department, who had, after six months search, apprehended the prisoner, three weeks ago, since which time he has occurred in the district.

Proving director's guilty knowledge

Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1995)
Regina v F

Before Lord Taylor of Gossforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Forbes
Judgment January 23

The state of mind that had to be proved against a company director charged with conspiring to defraud the company by depositing money with a company accepting a deposit without an authorisation or licence from the Bank of England was that the director knew the material facts which constituted the offence by the company and agreed to its conduct in its business on the basis of those facts.

The decision was given in the Court of Appeal's opinion on the point of law referred by the Attorney-General to the court under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1972 after the two respondents, B and F, were acquitted on a submission of no case to answer on two counts, withdrawn from the jury at Tossell Crown Court by Judge Fox.

The counts had charged them each with conspiring, contrary to section 3 of the Banking Act 1987, a deposit of thousands of pounds from a person in the course of carrying on a business which for

the purpose of the 1987 Act was a deposit-taking business, the respondents being directors of the company and its offence being committed with their consent, they were thereby guilty of the offence by virtue of section 96(1).

Section 3 provides: "(1) ... no person shall ... accept a deposit in the course of carrying on ... a business which ... is a deposit-taking business unless that person is an institution for the time being authorised by the Bank of England to do so ... this Act."

Section 96 provides: "(1) Where an offence under this Act committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent ... of any director ... of the body corporate ... he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of that offence."

Mr Michael Worsley, QC and Mr Neville Spencer-Lewis for the Attorney-General; Mr Peter Collier, QC and Mr Jeremy Barnes for the respondents.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the opinion of the court, said that the respondents were convicted of several counts charged under section 35 of the 1987 Act, fraudulent inducement from a person in the course of carrying on a business which for

F was the chairman of a small insurance/investment brokerage company and B was his right-hand man. From 1987 onwards the company was accepting deposits in the course of carrying on a deposit-taking business, he could not give informed consent and therefore could not consent to the acceptance of a deposit in contravention of section 3. The submission was that the directors had to be positively aware of the lack of authorisation and to have applied their minds to that fact also.

The trial judge, in an initial ruling stated that on authorities which had been argued before him, but principally *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Hart* [1992] 1 WLR 481, the prosecution would have to prove not only (i) that there was a deposit-taking business and (ii) that it was in the course of a deposit-taking business, but also that the appellants knew and had applied their minds to the fact that there was no licence for them to do this.

In an extended ruling he had held that a section 3 offence was a strict liability offence but was made otherwise concerning directors where a particular awareness had to be proved and there was no evidence of that. For that reason only he withdrew the two counts from the jury.

Mr Worsley, in submitting that the judge was incorrect, relied on the well known principle that ignorance of the law was no excuse. That was not, and could not be, in dispute. The issue on the reference was what state of mind had to be established against an accused to make him guilty of conspiring under section 96(1).

Mr Worsley said that if the person mentioned in section 96(1) knew the facts which constituted the offence under section 3(1) committed by the body corporate and consented to that body's affairs being carried on in accordance with those facts, he was guilty of the offence under section 96(1), subject to any defence he might have under section 96(4). It was no defence to say "I had no idea it was an offence to carry on that business without authorisation from the Bank."

Mr Worsley relied on dicta in *Johnson v Youden* [1950] 1 KB 544, 549, expressly approved by the House of Lords in *R v Church* [1967] 2 AC 224, 230, 237. Mr Collier's submission, reflected in the judge's ruling, was that unless the accused directors were shown to have addressed

each count against both men jointly. At the end of the prosecution case the respondents submitted that there was no case to answer. On their behalf it was argued that, in order to be guilty of the offence of conspiring to defraud the company, a defendant director had to be aware of the relevant facts.

If the director was not aware that the business was, as a matter of fact, deemed to be a deposit-taking business, he could not give informed consent and therefore could not consent to the acceptance of a deposit in contravention of section 3. The submission was that the directors had to be positively aware of the lack of authorisation and to have applied their minds to that fact also.

The trial judge, in an initial ruling stated that on authorities which had been argued before him, but principally *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Hart* [1992] 1 WLR 481, the prosecution would have to prove not only (i) that there was a deposit-taking business and (ii) that it was in the course of a deposit-taking business, but also that the appellants knew and had applied their minds to the fact that there was no licence for them to do this.

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their minds specifically to the absence of authorisation or licence they could not be guilty of conspiring under section 96(1).

He referred additionally to three cases: *Huckley v Elliott* [1970] 1 All ER 189, 195 which concerned an issue of negligence, not directly before their Lordships on the issue of consent; *Westminster City Council v Crystal Palace Ltd* [1986] 1 WLR 674 which, dealing with setting up a sex establishment without a licence, did not support Mr Collier's arguments; and *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Hart* [1992] 1 WLR 481, but that case was crucially different from the present in that knowledge of the unlawfulness of acting as an auditor was an ingredient of the offence under section 135(1) of the Companies Act 1979 which had to be proved against the defendant.

His Lordship said that the correct approach was that suggested by Mr Worsley. A director, who knew that acts could only be performed by the company if it was licensed by the Bank of England could not be performed when in fact no licence existed, and who consented to that performance was guilty of the offence charged. The fact that he did not know that it was an offence to perform them without a licence was ignorance of the law, and was no defence.

Ignorance of the law necessarily, in the context of the present case, pointed to a knowledge that the company was operating unlawfully. That was not to say that section 96(1) created an absolute offence in respect of directors.

There could, for example, in a company with a number of directors responsible for different limbs of the company's business, be a director who believed a licence had been obtained and was not, therefore, consenting to the offences committed by the company. That was not the situation in the present case.

The judge was wrong to withdraw the two counts from the jury. The questions as set out in the reference were: "(a) Whether on a charge against a company director of conspiring to the acceptance of a deposit contrary to section 3(1) and 96(1) of the Banking Act 1987, ignorance of the law as to the requirement of the authorisation of the Bank of England is a defence; and (b) what mens rea is required to be proved to show 'consent'."

The answer to question (a) was "No." To question (b) the answer was that the defendant had to be shown to know the material facts which constituted the offence by the body corporate and to have agreed to its conduct in its business on the basis of those facts.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters; Walker Morris, Leeds.

Lone parent not entitled to disability premium

Rider v Chief Adjudication Officer
Palmer v Same
Doyle v Same

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe
Judgment January 23

The lone parent of a severely disabled child, in receipt of attendance and mobility allowances, had no entitlement under paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to the Income Support (General) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 1967) to have included in the income support paid to her a "severe disability premium".

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the appellants, Mrs Daphne Rider, from the dismissal by a social security commissioner (Mrs C. R. Higgs) of her claim for payment to her of the premium.

The court also dismissed appeals that raised similar issues by Mr Anthony Palmer and Miss Carole Doyle, both lone parents of a disabled child and in receipt of attendance allowance but not mobility allowance, from refusals by commissioners (Mrs Higgs and Mr J. B. Morcom, respectively) of their claims to have included in their income support a disability premium under paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 2 to the 1987 Regulations.

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to the 1987 Regulations, headed "Severe Disability Premium", provides for entitlement where: "(1) ... the claimant is a severely disabled person."

"(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), a claimant shall be treated as being a severely disabled person if, and only if - (a) in the case of a single claimant or a lone parent - (i) he is in receipt of

attendance allowance ..."

Paragraph 13 was amended from April 9, 1990 by the insertion of paragraph 14B into Schedule 2 by regulation 17 of the Income Support (General) Amendment Regulations (SI 1990 No 547).

Mr Richard Drabble, QC, for Mrs Rider; Miss Natalie Liven for Mr Palmer and Miss Doyle; Mr J. R. McManus for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the three appeals raise an identical question of construction of paragraphs 12 and 13 of Schedule 2 to the 1987 Regulations.

The question, only capable of arising up to April 8, 1990, was whether the words "in receipt of attendance allowance" in those paragraphs were to be read just as they stood or as importing the additional requirement that the allowance should be payable in respect of the recipient's own needs.

Each claimant had living with him or her a severely disabled child. In each case there was included in the award of income support a disabled child premium payable under paragraph 14 of Schedule 2 but not a disability premium or severe disability premium as well.

There was no doubt that in each case it was the parent, and not the child, who was entitled to the attendance allowance in respect of the child (section 35 of the Social Security Act 1975).

Mr Drabble submitted that since Mrs Rider was paid, but was not in her own right, the attendance allowance in respect of her child then she was in receipt of the allowance within paragraph 13(2)(a)(ii) and was thus to be treated, fictionally, as a severely disabled person who satisfied the

condition specified in paragraph 13(1) in respect of severe disability premium.

Mr McManus submitted that the words "in receipt of" could not be read thus literally and did not include receipt of the allowance payable in respect of the needs of another person and that where a parent received it in respect of a child the regulations assumed that it was received by the child and not by the parent.

The terms of paragraph 14 were of crucial importance. Paragraph 13 was concerned only with single claimants, lone parents and their partners; paragraph 14 only with children and young persons.

There seemed to be no reason for importing the needs of either class into a paragraph which was concerned with the needs of the other. Since paragraph 14 was clearly intended to provide for additional income support to meet the needs of disabled children and young persons, there was no warrant for supposing that those needs were also to be provided for under paragraph 13.

The meaning of "in receipt of" could only be ascertained on an overall comparison of the two paragraphs and a particular consideration of the same words in paragraph 14(b). When that exercise had been carried out it was seen that the words were not to be read just as they stood but as importing the additional requirement that the attendance allowance should be payable in respect of the recipient's own needs.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Glyn Tucker, Newham; Sinclair Taylor Martin; Solicitors, Department of Social Security.

Guidance for jury award

Scotland v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis

If a judge gave guidance to a jury as to the range of an appropriate award in a claim for personal injury in a trial for false imprisonment and/or malicious prosecution, it was essential that the jury was made to understand that it was only guidance.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Roch) so stated on January 19 when dismissing an appeal brought by Steven Sinclair Scotland against the award by a jury of £500 for personal injury he sustained in an assault by the police.

LORD JUSTICE STUART-

SMITH said that it had been submitted that, analogous with the new practice established in defamation cases by the Court of Appeal in *John v MGM Ltd* (The Times December 14, 1995) it might be open to judges to give guidance to the jury in such cases as the present as to the tariff figures established by the courts for similar injuries.

In his Lordship's judgment it was desirable that discussions between counsel and the judge as to the appropriate level of award should be made in the absence of the jury. It had to be made clear to the jury that everything depended upon their assessment of the gravity of the injury.

In the present case the figure

awarded by the jury, albeit towards the lower end of the scale, fell within the appropriate tariff, and the appeal would be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, agreeing, said that he wished to emphasise that what the judge was giving was guidance.

Corrections

The name of the defendant accountants was misspelled in *DTC (CN) Ltd v Gary Sergeant & Co* (The Times January 23).

In *Biggs v Somerset County Council* (The Times January 29) Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Paul Goulding appeared for the council.

Keeper of horses not liable for result of their release

Jaundrell v Gillett

Before Lord Justice Russell and Mr Justice Singer
Judgment January 16

The keeper of horses which had been maliciously released on to the road where they panicked and galloped into an oncoming car was not liable to a driver who collided with the horses.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Robert Gillett against a decision of Mr Recorder Hussain in Manchester County Court on March 30, 1995 in favour of the plaintiff driver, Gary Jaundrell, in the sum of £4,869.65 plus interest of 6.5% and costs.

Section 2 of the Animals Act 1971 provides: "(2) Where damage is caused by an animal which does not belong to a dangerous species, a keeper of the animal is liable for the damage, except as otherwise provided by this Act, if ... (b) the likelihood of the damage or of its being severe was due to characteristics of the animal which are not normally found in animals of the same species or are not normally so found except at particular times or in particular circumstances."

Mr Patrick Field for the defendant Mr David Allen, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL said section 2(2)(b) of the 1971 Act had been the subject of adverse judicial comment in the past. The recorder had not had an easy task in dealing with the section.

The plaintiff had been driving in Lytton St Anne's on August 10, 1988. It was dark and he was using his headlights. The lights picked up a number of riderless horses galloping towards the car.

The horses had escaped from a field where they had been kept by the defendant. It was common ground that some malicious intruder had opened a gate and driven the horses on to the highway. The quantum of damages had been agreed but the defendant denied liability.

The only issue for the recorder was whether the plaintiff was entitled to rely on what was basically the absolute liability of the keeper of an animal other than a dangerous species.

The plaintiff had relied on the evidence of a veterinary surgeon that a group of horses when moved from their accustomed environ-

ment did tend to behave abnormally, and that horses released from their field on to the road with other horses in the dark would tend to panic and gallop aimlessly in any direction.

The recorder had found that the plaintiff had satisfied section 2(2)(b). But his Lordship had grave reservations whether a horse which galloped on a highway and panicked was displaying a characteristic under section 2.

Section 8 of the Act made express provision for the liability of a keeper whose animal escaped on to the highway through his own negligence. But it was unnecessary to come to a conclusion on that aspect of the case.

There had to be a causal link between the animal's characteristic under section 2 and the damage. In his Lordship's view the real and effective cause of the accident was the release of the animals on to the highway. It was the presence of the horses on the highway that was the cause of the damage sustained. The appeal would be allowed.

Mr Justice Singer agreed.

Solicitors: James Chapman & Co, Manchester; Pamme & Partners, Manchester.

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With the name of each hotel you will see three prices. The first is the cost per person based on a car and four people travelling together. The second price is based on a car and two people, and the third price shown is the cost per person of an additional night's stay.

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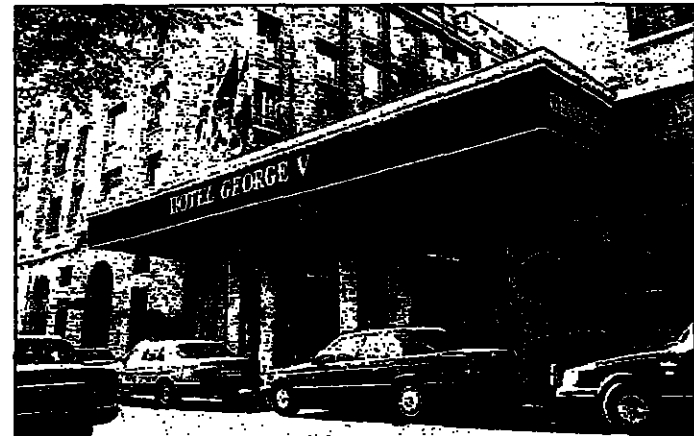
You can also travel to Calais, Lille, Paris, Brussels, Bruges or Amsterdam by Eurostar for £60 each return.

To take advantage of these European short breaks, all you have to do is collect three different tokens from The Times. Full details and how to make your reservations, a hotline for more information, plus a booking form will be published tomorrow.

Destination	Per Person (Car & 4)	Per Person (Car & 2)	Per Person (Additional Night)
Amsterdam	£29	£39	£69
Brussels	£29	£39	£69
Budapest	£29	£39	£69
Capri	£29	£39	£69
Geneva	£29	£39	£69
Lille	£29	£39	£69
London	£29	£39	£69
Madrid	£29	£39	£69
Paris	£29	£39	£69
Prague	£29	£39	£69
Rome	£29	£39	£69
Vienna	£29	£39	£69
Zurich	£29	£39	£69

Terms and Conditions
1. Prices shown are per person and compared with published rates current at the time of going to press, are subject to availability at time of booking and are exclusive of airport taxes.
2. Reservations and enquiries should be made directly with Hamilton Travel Ltd. Details will appear in the week.
3. Full payment is required immediately on confirming your reservation. Only when payment is received will the hotel be issued and the fare guaranteed.
4. Amendments to confirmed reservations are subject to airline rules and regulations applicable to the fare type booked. Please ask for further details before confirming your reservation.
5. Cancellation charges are as follows: before 14 days - £50 per person; after 14 days - £100 per person. No refund.
6. All cheques should be made payable to Hamilton Travel Ltd. You may also pay by major credit and debit cards. Credit cards transactions are subject to a 1.5% booking fee.
7. Passenger/visa requirements, for destinations listed are available on request.
8. Hamilton Travel Ltd, Abet 1480.

PARIS
Jardin de Paris Louvre 2* Close Opera house, elegant breakfast room, metro. Richeyau Drouot. RO £49 £59 £30.
Jardin de Paris St Lazare 2* Between Gare St Lazare and Place Clichy, close shopping. Boulevard. RO £49 £59 £30.
Jardin de Paris Boulogne 2* Near Bois de Boulogne, metro Marcel Sembat. RO £39 £49 £24.



The five-star Hotel George V where you can stay for £119 a night

Jardin de Paris Montmartre 2* Between Sacre-Coeur and St Ouen flea market, Metro Jules Joffrin. RO £29 £39 £15.
Jardin de Paris République 2* Near picturesque St Martin canal, most rooms garden views. Metro Gare de l'Est and J. Bonaparte. RO £29 £39 £15.
Holiday Inn République 3* Sights of Paris are on doorstep, two rest, satellite TV. RO £39 £79 £31.
Amey's Lannec 2* Near Montmartre, simple, two star. Metro Jules Joffrin. RO £29 £39 £17.
Climat de France Montmartre 2* Easily accessible by car from the Peripherique. Metro Porte de Clignancourt. RO £29 £39 £17.
Comfort Inn Sacre-Coeur 2* Modern, comfortable. Metro Abbesses. RO £29 £39 £17.
Comfort Inn St Pierre 2* Near St Pierre market, modern, comfortable, soundproofed. Metro Amers. RO £29 £39 £17.
Libertal André Duperré 2* Foot of Montmartre, recently renovated. Metro Pigalle. BB £49 £59 £26.
Libertal Moulin 3* Stylish, recently renovated. Metro Blanche. BB £59 £69 £42.
Libertal Montmartre 3* Close Arc de Triomphe, instantly refurbished, welcoming. Metro Ternes. BB £39 £59 £42.
Hotel du Grand Turenne 3* Heart of picturesque Marais, refurbished. Metro Bastille. BB £39 £59 £42.
Holiday Inn La Villette 3* Close Champs Elysees, modern, rest, bar, fitness centre. Metro Porte de Pantin. RO £39 £59 £40.

Holiday Inn Rive Gauche 3* Close Montparnasse and metro for Les Invalides and the Eiffel Tower, modern, comfortable, parking. Metro Vaugrand or Volontaires. RO £49 £59 £25.
La Meridien Etoile 4* Near Arc de Triomphe, 3 rest, incl celebrated La Clos Longchamp and Jazz Club. RO £59 £69 £48.
La Meridien Montparnasse 4* Left Bank, close St-Germain des Pres, art deco rest, brasserie overlooking the garden. RO £59 £69 £48.

usually decorated rooms, bar. Metro Liège. BB £39 £49 £29.
Modern Hotel Lyon 3* Near Gare de Lyon and Bastille district, traditional, welcoming. Metro Gare de Lyon. BB £39 £49 £28.
Hotel Winston 3* Small, traditional, close to Pigalle, breakfast, bar, Metro-Pigalle. BB £39 £49 £29.
Hotel Montceau Elysees 3* Walking distance Arc de Triomphe, Champs Elysees, welcoming. Metro Courcelles. BB £29 £39 £20.
PARIS-EST
Campagne Chelles 2* Outside Paris, 20 minutes from Paris, modern, restaurant, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Campagne Torcy Marne-la-Vallée 2* Modern, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Jouville-la-Potrie - Hotel Bleu Marlene 3* Half-way between centre of Paris-Denisval, stylish, modern, bar, rest, sauna, fitness. RO £39 £49 £22 Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
PARIS-NORD
Campagne Le Blanc-Mesnil 2* Modern, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Campagne Bobigny 2* Outside Paris, modern, grill-restaurant, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Campagne Goussainville 2* Outside Paris, modern, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Campagne Gonesse 2* Outside Paris, modern, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Le Blanc Mesnil Hotel Bleu Marlene 3* Northwest of Paris, 30 mins Disneyland, elegant, comfortable, bar, rest, sauna. RO £39 £49 £22 Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
PERONNE
Campagne 2* Outside Paris, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
Chateau de Cocotte 3* In the countryside, 15-min drive from Calais, 18th century, rest overlooking park, chateau cellars house a wine shop. RO £39 £49 £25.



The four-star Sofitel in Versailles where you can stay for only £39 a night

REIMS
Grand Hotel du Nord 2* Opens onto Place d'Erlon with its shops, street cafes and restaurants. RO £29 £39 £20.
Novotel 3* Modern, in its own grounds, easy three-hour drive from Calais by autoroute, rest. Free parking. RO £39 £49 £25 2+2.
L'Assiette Champenoise 4* Beautiful mansion in its own grounds, short drive from centre, rest, indoor pool, sauna. BB £100 £119 £106. 2 nights incl visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
Hotel Continental 3* On the Place d'Erlon, one of finest squares in Reims. BB £79 £89 £74. 2 nights including visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
Hotel de la Paix 3* Central, large, modern, bar, rest with lively brasserie atmosphere. BB £79 £89 £74. 2 nights including visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
Hotel des Arcades 2* Heart of Reims, modern, recently renovated. BB £59 £69 £50. 2+2 weekend price including visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
Finotel 2* Central, modern, comfortable, bar, rest. BB £59 £69 £50. 2 nights including visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
Hotel Crystal 2* Traditional, on one of finest squares in Reims. BB £59 £69 £50. 2 nights including visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
ROLLEBOISE
Chateau de la Corniche 3* Elegant, high



The four-star Sofitel in Versailles where you can stay for only £39 a night

above Seine, tennis court, bar, gastronomic rest beautiful views. RO £29 £39 £20.
ROUEN
Hotel de Dieppe 3* Heart of old quarter, rest specialising in Normandy cuisine. RO £39 £49 £27.
Interhotel de Bordeaux 2* Close old town, traditional two-star. RO £29 £39 £15.
Clairine 2* Close to cathedral, comfortable, rest, swimming pool, sauna, BB £100 £119 £106. 2 nights incl visit to Champagne cellar, tasting; museum pass.
ST OMER
La Bratagne 3* Close centre, modern, gastronomic rest and Maeva Grill. RO £39 £49 £23.
ST QUENTIN
Campagne 2* West of St Quentin, motel-style, grill-rest, husband and wife team. RO £29 £39 £20 FR £B Mon-Thur supp £5pp.
STYASBOURG
Novotel Centre 3* Central, rest, bar, air-conditioned bedrooms, indoor parking (payable). RO £29 £39 £22 + 2.
Novotel Sud 3* 10 kilometres from centre, rest, bar. RO £29 £39 £22 + 2.
TOURCOING
Finotel 2* North-east of Lille, rest. RO £29 £39 £20.
VERSAILLES
Sofitel 4* At the gates of magnificent Chateau de Versailles, the grand stately architecture blends in with neighbouring monuments, elegant bar, Restaurant les Menages. RO £39 £49 £28.

BB = extra bed available
FR = family room
2+2 = 2 bedrooms available for 2 adults and 2 children under 16
RO = room only
BB = bed and breakfast
EBC = extra child's bed available
pp = per person

THE TIMES
EUROPEAN
SHORT
BREAKS
TOKEN 3

PFA members find a little knowledge a dangerous thing in football management

Molby sets pace but most players show feet of clay

If only all managers had the brains, wit and insight of the average football supporter, the FA Carling Premiership would be in a class of its own. One look at the success rate of the Interactive Team Football (ITF) selector can tell you that. Kevin Keegan may be happy to spend £7 million on Asprilla with a further £10 million reserved for Batty and Boksic, but the leading ITF managers know that it is not cash but guile that wins points.

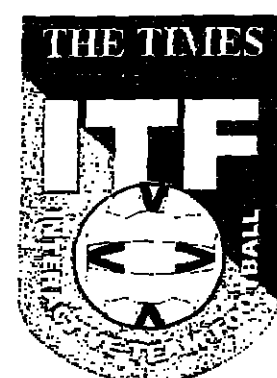
Keegan's Newcastle may be leading the Premiership, but his tactics would never work in the ITF. Including those players he is currently trying to sign, his spending since last summer stands at around £33 million, and all that for only eight players. With only £35 million available to the ITF managers, Keegan would be broke and still only have half a team.

Of course, a little inside knowledge always helps. You would think that the Premiership players who have entered the PFA league would have their fingers on the pulse of football, aware of the gossip and rumour, a keen professional eye sizing up the playing talent around them. Dream on.

Pity poor Alan Stubbs, of Bolton. His side, the Kirkby Krunchers, have amassed a meagre 155 points thanks to injuries and his boys simply not being picked to play for their clubs. But at least he has some points to his name. The selections of Steve Potts, David Lee and Mark Hughes have scored, between them, not one solitary point. Best not to give up the day jobs, boys.

At the top, Jan Molby is still in the lead, but only just. With 306 points, he is one point ahead of Darren Peacock and Mark Powell who, for the last four weeks, have been jockeying for position in the race to catch the great Dane.

Peacock and Powell have both gone for the big money strikers with mixed results. Peacock decided on Alan



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Shearer, but then ran out of money and chances to win points by teaming him up with Paateleinen, of Bolton. Powell is still waiting for Andy Cole to start earning his corn by scoring £7 million worth of goals.

All three, however, have based their teams on the defensive qualities of Aston Villa and Everton. Molby has paired Watson and Ehiogu at the heart of his defence with Southall in goal, while the other two managers have opted for Bosnich, of Aston Villa, between the sticks.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can

move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back) and keep within your £35 million budget.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute (plus 4p per minute at other times). If you are calling from the Republic of Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Mark Powell, of Bolton Wanderers, gives his selection on the opposite page. Like him, you may spend £7 million on Andy Cole — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Goals Gods 65 setting the pace, is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.



Giggs's goal for Manchester United in the FA Cup on Saturday helped him to close the gap on the leading midfield players, Lee and Merson

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-96 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Send off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

*Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also be open at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would really be overpaying) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out: _____ Player code: _____

Club: _____

Player in: _____

Club: _____

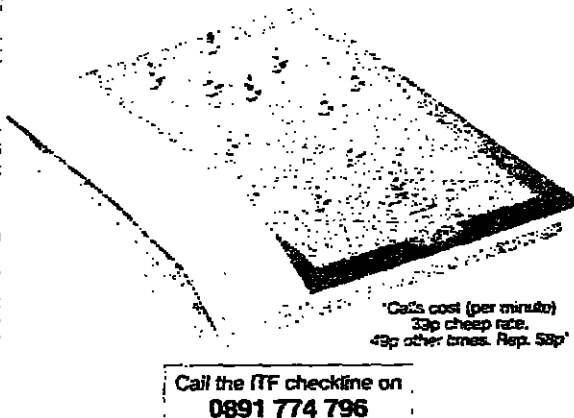
THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Value
0035	A. Cole	Man Utd	£2.5m
0070	A. Carling	Tottenham	£2.0m
0176	N. Clough	Man City	£1.5m
Code	Player	OUT	Value
1170	A. Cole	Man Utd	£2.5m
1152	A. Smith	Sheff Wed	£2.0m
0307	N. Clough	Liverpool	£1.5m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Goals Gods 65	(Mr B. Gohls)	448
2	Kevin's Kickers	(K. James)	433
3	James Boys Six	(M. L. Jones)	413
4	Stevens Lions 2	(S. Brewer)	404
5	Teddy Five	(Mr S. Bear)	404
6	Aberspaw	(G. Shand)	398
7	Short And Stubbs	(K. Booth)	398
8	Shrew Voles	(R. Blashen)	392
9	Kisspurs Five	(E. Kirby)	390
10	Phygro And Smith	(K. Booth)	389
11	Stevens Lions 7	(S. Brewer)	386
12	Sharon's Suds	(J. Nicholls)	386
13	My Cat Bailey	(Mr D. Conroy)	385
14	Apollon 2	(Mr P. Johnson)	384
15	Jessicas Darlings 4	(S. Lazdarski)	384
16	Fergie's Fury	(Mr A. Nadeau)	383
17	Rosies Supers	(P. Simpson)	383
18	Stevens Lions 8	(P. Sutton)	380
19	Fair Fair Flagship	(S. Brewer)	380
20	Dwayns Dribblers	(C. Woodward)	380
21	Percys Progress	(A. J. Phelan)	380
22	Stevens Lions 1	(M. Persich)	379
23	Rescue City	(S. Brewer)	379
24	The Good Bad & Ugly	(J. Sanderson)	378
25	Perlick Thistle	(K. Booth)	378
26	Burnwell United	(C. Hargrave)	378
27	Stevens Lions 8	(R. Barnham)	377
28	Saltzburgh United	(S. Brewer)	376
29	Who Needs Mark	(Mr P. J. Davies)	376
30	Strangers	(Mr G. Banks)	375
31	KP Family Team 4	(R. Pater)	375
32	Razz's Raiders	(Mr A. Knowles)	375
33	Nagels Right Foot	(Mr D. Patel)	374
34	Laytons Lions	(Mr P. Layton)	373
35	Tommy Cockles XI	(Mr P. Johnson)	373
36	Nirvana FC	(Mr J. Donohoe)	373
37	The Young Guns	(B. Shepherd)	372
38	Jacobson FC	(Mr A. P. Jacobson)	372
39	Stevens Lions 5	(S. Brewer)	371
40	James Boys Four	(L. M. Jones)	371
41	No Fear Utd	(G. Saunders)	369
42	Al's Alscorans	(A. Hancock)	369
43	Good Times United	(Mr T. Stableford)	368
44	Communting Eleven	(B. Evans)	368
45	Chip N' Dale XI	(Mrs E. L. Armstrong)	367
46	Goal Diggers	(C. Stacey)	367
47	Harrington Inter	(Mr D. Lovell)	365
48	Estuary	(Mr P. Giles)	365
49	Cameron Athan	(Mr J. R. Reader)	365
50	Centing XI	(P. Parke)	365
51	Russell 3	(D. Shuter)	365
52	Ball's Team	(G. Ghuman)	365
53	Le Socks	(I. Aldous)	364
54	Nadar	(Mr A. Nevazsky)	364
55	Langton Longshots	(J. Ward)	364
56	Jermund 1950	(S. Murray)	363
57	Warren Wizards	(J. Buckle)	362
58	Nobby One	(A. Brown)	362
59	County Pine A	(J. Hunt)	362
60	No Sam Today	(N. Webb)	362
61	Warrnabes Stars	(A. P. Harris)	362
62	The Wine One Too	(A. Nelson)	361
63	Turners Earners	(P. Turner)	361
64	Kims Kickers	(G. Sutton)	361
65	Scot Utd	(G. Scottick)	361
66	Borussia Dunderdort	(K. Smith)	361
67	Steve's Stars	(S. Tinkler)	361
68	The Likely Lads	(G. Pedder)	361

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF checkline on 0891 774 796

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
69	Mercer's Men	(D. Bowlers)	361
70	Woolshewer	(K. Booth)	361
71	Partick Thistle	(C. Nadeau)	361
72	Norman	(T. Sigsworth)	361
73	Mean Machine	(Ramesh Patel)	360
74	The Doug Hutchies	(M. Stacey)	360
75	Rampstone Rovers	(R. A. Woodroffe)	360
76	Ol' Armstrong Yee	(G. Hyde)	360
77	Boing Boing Baggys	(T. Home)	360
78	C	(M. Corless)	359
79	Gutroff Marching	(Mr J. M. Hams)	359
80	Monster Monster	(M. Persich)	359
81	Phyctic TV	(T. Vardy)	359
82	Justintime	(A. Kent)	358
83	Melids Skit Monsters	(M. Melchior)	358
84	Tonys All Stars	(A. Boyland)	358
85	Reilly City	(J. Harrison)	358
86	Rescue City 2	(J. Sanderson)	358
87	Albemarle Town	(J. Hedges)	358
88	The Entertainers	(C. Rapley)	358
89	Map 9	(M. Prestley)	357
90	Evans Men	(W. Doyle)	357
91	Pig In A Poke	(Mr A. Vickers)	357
92	Turners Earners 2	(P. Turner)	357
93	Tidnight United	(P. D. Dwyer)	357
94	The Mind Boggles	(Mr P. McDowall)	356
95	They're Here	(Mr P. Johnson)	356
96	Journeymen	(A. Jordan)	356
97	Sams All Stars	(J. Allen)	356
98	Nobby Nat	(A. Brown)	356
99	The Phenoms	(Z. Mohammed)	355
100	Tunde United	(Dr T. Adesunji)	355
101	Bohemian Forest	(S. Burrell)	355
102	Foxton Rangers	(J. Lees)	355
103	Roy's Rangers	(P. M. Evans)	355
104	Poundwick Pupils	(J. Puster)	355
105	Freper Dribblers	(G. Gharan)	355
106	Merson The Person	(S. Blane)	355
107	Clarus Ducks	(T. Colten)	355
108	Mighty Reds	(J. Lewis)	354

110	Betty Reserves	(Mr A. W. Whitley)	354
111	Noble Rangers	(N. Thompson)	354
112	Jaggy Thistle	(J. Bruce)	354
113	The Conjurors	(Mr D. J. Farmer)	354
114	Brillo Boys	(C. Timson)	354
115	Pete's Star Turn	(Mr P. Macey)	354
116	Don Shuter C	(D. Shuter)	354
117	Good-Time Boys	(R. P. Crook)	354
118	—	(—)	354
119	Racing Club Harwell	(G. Williams)	354
120	Nippers	(K. Hughes)	353
121	Aberbury Villa	(J. S. Dhes)	353
122	Gully OJ	(I. Aldous)	353
123	Lemmings	(Mr P. Gregoriot)	353
124	Pursell Rangers	(P. MacDonald/Pursell)	353
125	Score A Bundle	(S. A. Bingham)	353
126	The Locksters	(D. Lock)	353
127	Pilley Pirates	(R. R. Polington)	353
128	—	(Mr S. Carter)	353
129	—	(D. Ballou)	353
130	—	(E. Scallion)	353
131	—	(Dr Hall)	352
132	—	(A. Jenkinson)	352
133	—	(Mr A. Shah)	352
134	—	(M. P. P. P. P.)	352
135	—	(A. Matthews)	352
136	—	(T. Martin)	352
137	—	(J. Baker)	351
138	—	(S. Cozens)	351
139	—	(Mr S. Hughes)	351
140	—	(B. Robinson)	351
141	—	(S. Bartlett)	351
142	—	(S. Smith)	351
143	—	(A. Creegan)	351
144	—	(T. Hibbs)	351
145	—	(Mr D. Warner)	351
146	—	(Mr T. Ambridge)	351
147	—	(T. Burns)	351
148	—	(J. P. Barry)	351
149	—	(P. Hutchinson)	351
150	—	(F. Caldwell)	351
151	—	(N. Brewer)	350
152	—	(C. Hubbard)	350
153	—	(P. Mason)	350
154	—	(Mr K. Chesham)	350
155	—	(D. Chamberlain)	350
156	—	(J. Kitchen)	350
157	—	(J. K. Kitchen)	350
158	—	(S. P. P. P.)	350
159	—	(S. O'Toole)	350
160	—	(C. Lorton)	350
161	—	(M. Stadio)	350
162	—	(I. C. Cole)	350
163	—	(P. Francis)	350
164	—	(P. Bradley)	350
165	—	(R. J. Daravett)	350
166	—	(J. K. Kitchen)	350
167	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
168	—	(J. P. P. P.)	350
169	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
170	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
171	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
172	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
173	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
174	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350
175	—	(M. P. P. P.)	350

176	Anti-Saints	(J Lawson)	348
177	Robbo's Army	(P Callaghan)	348
178	Tyres Blue Notes	(Mr S Tye)	348
179	The Solbos	(D Hoskins)	348
180	Dream Team	(J Veltman)	348
181	Freedom XI	(P Mennie)	348
182	The Others	(O Milar)	348
183	Inter Adagio	(S Slade)	348
184	—	(M Dale)	348
185	—	(N Carr)	348
186	Armitage Shanks FC	(C Walker)	348
187	Crook Invaders	(N Carr)	348
188	Switcheeroo	(A Richardson)	348
189	Mumfordian Utd	(J Mumford)	348
190	Its A Mugs Game	(K Booth)	348
191	Bad Loovers	(P Bayley)	348
192	The Rampant Rams	(N R. R. R.)	348
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194	Very Forward	(A Pearce)	348
195	Check Your Head Unit	(M Adamson)	348
200	Reza Rovers	(Mr Poglian)	348
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200	Jaynes Jugs	(K Hughes)	348
200	OHME	(R Matthews)	348
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200	Wyde Green Town	(M Riggins)	348
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200	The Glory Boys	(N Venn)	348
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213	Hains House	(R Khan)	348
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213	Tapcream	(R Hethelington)	348
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213	Seacalgeos FC 4	(S Adams)	348
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213	Raiders F	(D Mulholland)	348
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213	Black Swan Utd	(R Gurneary)	348
226	Jungle Nation	(D J Page)	348
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226	Guy Rovers	(S G Arlinton)	348
226	It's A Trap	(Mr Allen)	348
226	Atlantis FC	(R Halford)	348
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226	Writers Wanderers	(Mr A F Winter)	348
226	FA Allstars United	(S Dostani)	348
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226	Teds Tigers	(E Townsend)	348
226	—	(S Armitage)	348
226	The Dream Team	(C Farall)	348
226	Knapars Feet	(G. Hushy)	348
226	Gothic Gods 73	(Mr B. Goff)	348
243	Headbitchers	(D Ferguson)	348
243	James Dinglers	(J Andrew)	348
243	Paterosn S Dreamers	(M Pateroson)	348
243	Well Sea	(A Costello)	348
243	Oneinabluemoon	(Mr D Clarke)	348
243	The Gentlemen	(O Gracick)	348
243	No Hoppers	(S Harris)	348
243	The UFF Bayers	(J Florins)	348

NEWS

Students to face £300 entrance fee

Universities are to abandon their commitment to the principle of free higher education and impose a £300 entry fee under plans disclosed last night.

Vice-chancellors said that after six years of funding cuts and the doubling of student rolls, they had no alternative but to seek a fresh source of cash to safeguard standards. Under the proposals about 140,000 students starting next year would have to pay before being admitted to lectures. **Page 1**

Woman under police protection raped

A woman placed under police protection after a man stalked her for five months suffered a two-hour rape ordeal at his hands in her home. The married mother was so terrified by the attack two weeks ago that she was unable to give the police a full account of her ordeal for several days. **Page 1**

'Gutter' politics

John Major and the Labour leadership traded insults about their records on law and order, with Tony Blair accusing the Tories of seeking to fight the next general election "in the gutter". **Page 1**

Bodies recovered

Royal Engineer bomb disposal experts worked their way inch by inch through a minefield and thick snow to reach three British soldiers killed by a mine in Bosnia-Herzegovina. **Page 15**

MI5 controls spelt out

The Government has bowed to protests from police and opposition parties and will outline clear legal controls over MI5's new role in tackling gangs and drug dealing. **Page 2**

Leisure can wait

Thirty-three council workers who shared a £10 million lottery win at the weekend all turned up for work yesterday, helping the homeless. **Page 3**

Pilot dies at controls

A pilot collapsed and died with a suspected heart attack as he was preparing to land a passenger jet in Spain with 220 British holiday-makers on board. **Page 3**

Secret of stones

Clues to a burial mound dating from as long ago as 3,000 BC have been found inside the Neolithic henge and stone circle at Avebury in Wiltshire. **Page 5**

Life (of a sort) may survive on Mars

Mars could contain primitive forms of life similar to those that existed on Earth billions of years ago, according to scientists meeting in London this week. A new phase of space exploration is about to begin to investigate the possibility of life on Mars. If found, it would boost the statistical chance of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. **Page 6**

Tube blaze award

A musician who was badly burnt in the King's Cross Tube fire in which 31 people died was awarded £50,000 in agreed High Court damages. **Page 6**

Homework network

A Labour government would set up a national network of "homework centres" where pupils could do their homework out of school hours, Tony Blair said. Bright pupils would be offered fast-track learning. **Page 8**

Jungle mission

A new attempt is to be made to solve one of the great mysteries of exploration, the disappearance of Colonel Percy Fawcett in the Amazon jungle in 1925. **Page 9**

Floods kill four

Flash floods caused by torrential rain swept through the Hérault region of southern France, leaving at least four people dead and hundreds stranded. **Page 10**

Britain rebuffed

Britain's diagnosis of crisis over European monetary union were dismissed by its partners as little more than wishful thinking which must not be allowed to slow progress. **Page 10**

Fears for sanity

Relations of John du Pont, the multimillionaire murder suspect captured after an armed siege, had repeatedly tried to commit him to a mental hospital. **Page 11**



Maxwell Wood, 15, struggling to school near Tealby, Lincolnshire, as snow continued to blanket most of Britain yesterday. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Jobs: A joint venture including British Aerospace is aiming to scoop the lion's share of a looming British Airways order for regional jets. **Page 23**

On the buses: Employees of GM Buses South Holdings of Manchester will receive a 1,000 per cent return on their investment after a takeover by Stagecoach. **Page 23**

Fortis: Marriott Corporation said it had turned down an offer by Granada to swap the Meridian and Exclusive hotel chains for various Marriott assets in America. **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 0.1 points to close at 3734.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.1 to 83.2 after a rise from \$1.5028 to \$1.5075 but a fall from DM2.2414 to DM2.2398. **Page 26**

SPORT

Football: Bryan Robson's name will be chief among those discussed by the FA international committee as successor to Terry Venables, the England coach. **Page 44**

American football: The Dallas Cowboys established themselves beyond doubt as the team of the Nineties with their 27-17 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl. **Page 42**

Television: England v Scotland in the European championship finals will be shown exclusively by the BBC, who, with ITV, will be showing all 31 matches in the tournament live. **Page 44**

Racing: Frankie Dettori, the champion jockey, returns to action in the last two races at Lingfield after a seven-week holiday. **Page 41**

ARTS

Fugard's song: At the Royal Court in London, the distinguished South African writer Athol Fugard is preparing for the British premiere of his new play *Valley Song*, for which he is also director and leading actor. **Page 37**

Material issue: Bill Woodrow's show at the Tate Gallery is a series of powerful sculptures that satirise materialistic greed. **Page 38**

Pianist portrayed: John Ogdon, the brilliant British pianist who went mad and died a few years ago, is portrayed in *Virtuoso*, a new play. **Page 39**

Musical nights: The Mavericks, hottest of country bands, have opened a British tour; the Emerson String Quartet continue their Beethoven cycle. **Page 37**

FEATURES

Recycling the classics: The remake of the Fifties film *Sabrina* as *Sabrina* is symptomatic of a Hollywood trend away from risk, says Joe Joseph. **Page 13**

Down's syndrome tests: Medical science can advise women on the likelihood of their child being born with Down's syndrome. But Julia Llewellyn Smith finds this can cause more stress and heartache than it saves. **Page 13**

Early to bed: Does snoozing for longer make us healthier and more alert, or simply waste time awake? Jeremy Laurance looks at the arguments and investigates insomnia cures. **Page 12**

Juries on trial: The verdict on the Maxwell brothers has focused attention again on the jury system, amid growing calls for some proper reform. **Page 31**

The days of bear hugs and political partnership with the Russian leader are over. Washington now owes Mr Yeltsin a blunt condemnation of his drift away from economic reform. — *The New York Times*

While Mrs Clinton faced the grand jury alone last week, she was really in the dock for collaborative activity involving her husband. — *The Washington Times*

Joseph Brodsky, poet; Ian Dawson-Shepherd, founder of the Spastics Society; Maldwyn Rea, librarian. — **Page 17**

Regions under-represented in draft BBC Charter; use of National Lottery funds; prison staffing. **Page 15**

TOMORROW

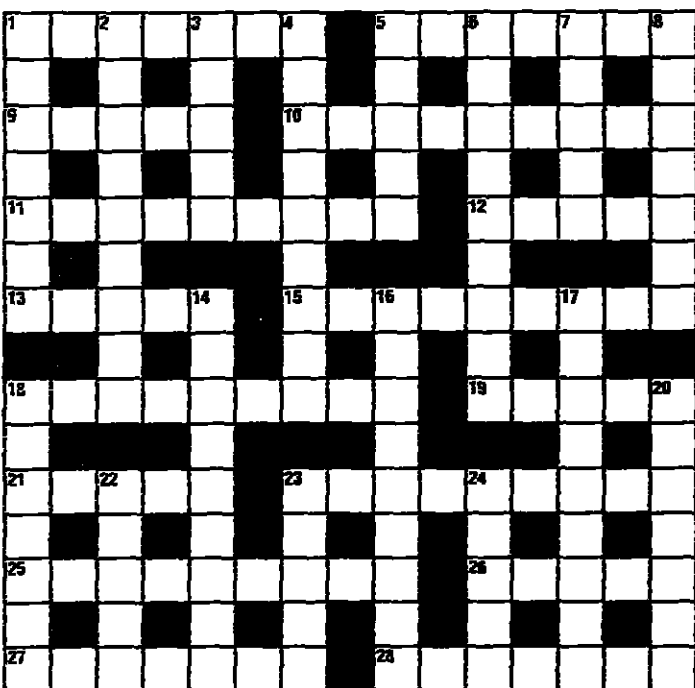
IN THE TIMES

FASHION
Quintessentially British: the look of understated elegance

INTERFACE
The race to create a global mobile phone network, plus: win a £1,500 computer and software package



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,077



- ACROSS**
- Mining town in manufacturing area suffering hard loss (7).
 - Cut more close with iron sheer, finally (7).
 - Feeling irritated or malicious, biting head off (5).
 - Angerly declares there's only a picture (6,3).
 - Put time to finish (4).
 - Just one day in Rome, old cardinal points out (5).
 - Star gives rocking to cricket side I run (5).
 - Awful bunkum's getting lines for a doll (9).
 - Proved, it's obvious, with a range of knowledge (9).
 - Charlie in top form, very musical (5).
 - Work of fiction female accomplished (5).
 - Reserved section in Cardiff 1st ordered (9).
 - Once hoping to be selected and play test? No way! (9).
- DOWN**
- Laundry equipment or something similar, by the word of it (7).
 - Figure that's about 100? Get confused (9).
 - Fashion writer of old-fashioned sort (5).
 - Priest with special talent, say, to become a prize-winning author (9).
 - Obliged to impose restrictions (5).
 - One country's units invading another country (9).
 - Escaped from predator up north (5).
 - No option for buyer (7).
 - New title given to boxing, producing another generation of boxers (9).
 - Female raver in a male preserve (9).
 - Person living in troubled region must learn to adapt (9).
 - Senior person in charge goes in to volunteer (7).
 - Home stretch? Moved with passion (7).
 - Group playing endlessly and very loudly in Scottish town (5).
 - Fly, bird (5).
 - North American people forming one special unit (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,076

REMEMBRANCE
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Greater London
West Surrey, Sussex, Dorset, Hampshire & Kent
West Midlands
East Midlands
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North West
Yorkshire & Lincolnshire
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Scotland
Ireland
Channel Islands
Jersey & Guernsey
Falkland Islands
Cape Verde Islands
Azores & Madeira
Canary Islands
Cape Verde Islands
Falkland Islands
Cape Verde Islands
Azores & Madeira
Canary Islands

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London & SE traffic, roadworks
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LAW 31-33
David Pannick, QC,
on what Labour
needs to do



ARTS 37-39
Athol Fugard brings
a new South Africa
to the Royal Court



SPORT 40-44
Cowboys ride off
once more with
Super Bowl spoils

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages 42,43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 30 1996

Joint venture homes in
on collapse of Fokker

Bae seeks record order to keep jobs

FROM ROSS TIEMAN IN TOULOUSE

AERO International Regional, a joint venture that includes British Aerospace, is aiming to win the lion's share of a British Airways order for regional jets by offering up to 40 British-built planes in a \$1 billion package.

A successful bid for what is likely to be the world's biggest regional jet order would guarantee jobs at British Aerospace's Woodford factory near Manchester for two years.

Prospects for the four-engine Avro RJ jets, built by Avro International in Manchester, will be selected have improved since Fokker, Avro's chief rival, sought protection from creditors.

The sales campaign will be led by AIR, a joint regional aircraft marketing and support venture launched earlier this month by British Aerospace, Aerospaciale of France, and Alenia of Italy.

Jeff Marsh, AIR's chief salesman, said versions of the Avro would be offered to meet all of BA's needs from 80 to 100 seats. That will still leave AIR's remaining rivals, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of America, and Airbus, the European consortium in which Bae has a 20 per cent stake, bidding to supply up to 20 larger planes.

In what is likely to prove one of the toughest aircraft sales campaigns, AIR will face stiff competition from the 100-seat MD-95, the 110-seat plus Boeing 737-600 and the 125-seat Airbus A319. BA needs the planes to replace 33 ageing Boeing 737-200 twin-jets in its own fleet and those of its partners, Deutsche BA in Germany and TAT in France, and to increase capacity on feeder services backing up its long-haul operations.

Mr Marsh said that AIR would offer a mixture of new aircraft and leased versions of the RJ's forerunner, the Bae 146 "whisper jet". After winning a record 50 orders for the RJ last year, Avro has a shortage of capacity on its production line.

The company plans to deliver 27 aircraft this year, up from 21 during 1995. Bae has been hesitating over increasing output in the hope that shortages will drive up the value of more than 100 Bae 146s owned by Bae's Asset Management Organisation, a leasing company.

At the same time, AIR is competing with McDonnell and Boeing to sell 10 regional jets to Saudia, the Saudi national airline, together with a similar number of planes needed by the Saudi military in a \$500 million package.

AIR also announced a £1 billion order for 15 ATR-42 turbo-prop, each carrying 44 passengers, from French regional carrier Air Littoral. The planes will be assembled in Toulouse by ATR, Bae's French-Italian partner in what is now the world's leading regional aircraft company.

Henri-Paul Puel, AIR's chief executive, said that sales last year reached £7.7 billion (£910 million). Of that, some £390 million was generated by Avro, a similar amount by ATR, and the remaining £130 million was earned by Jetstream, the Bae turbo-prop subsidiary at Prestwick, Strathclyde.

But while Avro is enjoying unprecedented sales success in Europe, ATR has been held back in America, previously its chief market, by the crash of an ATR-72 at Chicago in 1994 with the loss of 68 lives.

M Puel said the AIR companies had secured 26.27 per cent of the world market for aircraft from 20 seats to 120 seats last year. Saab of Sweden won a 10 per cent share, while Daimler-Benz of Germany, and its subsidiary Fokker, had achieved a 12 per cent share.

M Puel repeated his invitation to Daimler-Benz subsidiary Dasa to become a partner in AIR. Although he was sorry to see Fokker had sought protection from creditors and a buyer was being sought, he believed that the removal of surplus capacity would help the market.



Tea for two: John Barnes, left, shares a Giant Harry's Challenge with Ian Daly, managing director of Compass's New Famous Foods, yesterday

Compass takes Harry Ramsden's for a world trip

By SARAH BAGNALL

HOMESICK British tourists may soon be able to munch their favourite fish and chips as they sit whiling away the hours in airport lounges around the world.

Compass Group, the UK's largest contract caterer, has secured exclusive worldwide rights to use the brand of Harry Ramsden's, the world's most famous chippie.

Compass plans to follow British holidaymakers abroad by opening sites in international airports in popular tourist destinations. Ron Morley, company secretary at Compass, said the group had not pinpointed actual locations but there were numerous possibilities, such as holiday spots in Spain and Italy as well as in the Far East and Australia.

Starting life off in a small wooden shack at Guisley near Leeds in 1928, Harry Ramsden now comprises 15 outlets spread from Bournemouth to Hong Kong. The restaurants serve up chips fried in beef dripping and fish cooked in a secret batter recipe in surroundings more reminiscent of a smart hotel. This means each outlet has tablecloths, chandeliers, carpets and wait-

Marriott rules out swap with Granada

By ERIC REGULY

MARRIOTT Corporation, one of the world's largest hotels groups, said yesterday that it had turned down an offer by Granada to swap the Meridian and Exclusive hotel chains for various assets in America.

The assets are thought to be Marriott's extensive catering operations, which account for about half of the group's annual turnover of \$8 billion. Neither Marriott nor Granada would provide details. A Marriott spokeswoman in Washington said: "Granada approached Marriott with that deal, but Marriott rejected it."

Granada took control of the chains when it won the £3.8 billion takeover battle for Forte last week. It wants to sell the luxury hotels and concentrate on budget hotels and catering. Meridian and Exclusive, whose 103 properties include the Grosvenor House in London, are valued at about £1.6 billion.

The Marriott spokeswoman hinted that the company was interested in acquiring Meridian and Exclusive through a method other than an asset swap. "We'll talk to anyone about anything," she said.

Marriott is one of four or five groups in the running for the chains. Others are thought to include Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the leveraged buyout specialist, ITT Sheraton of America, and Accor of France, which competed with Forte for control of Meridian in 1994.

Sir Rocco Forte, former Forte chief executive, has said he wants to buy back the chains. JP Morgan, SG Warburg and Morgan Stanley, his advisers, are trying find partners to support his bid.

UCI a picture of optimism with £100m expansion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UCI, the cinema chain, yesterday premiered a blockbuster £100 million expansion plan to open six new multiplexes across the country by the end of 1997.

The company is aiming to cash in on the renewed popularity of cinema-going and fight off growing competition from rivals such as Warner Brothers.

The six new developments will be in Manchester, Crystal Palace and Docklands in London, Cardiff Bay, Leeds and Dublin and will create around 1,000 jobs over the next two years.

UCI was established in 1985 and has been responsible for popularising multiplexes in the UK and helping revive the cinema industry. Attendances have more than doubled in the past ten years from a low of 54 million in 1984 to 120 million in 1995 and are expected to grow to 150 million by the end of the decade.

The company has already established 24 multiplexes across the country, as well as managing prestige cinemas such as the Empire in Leicester Square, London. Each multiplex incorporates between nine and 12 screens and has a seating capacity of up to 3,500.

David Harris, operations director at UCI, said that the company was looking at a further ten developments but was also considering smaller multiscreen ventures in town centres. He said: "It is not easy to win planning permission for out-of-town developments at the moment, and smaller developments can help revive city centres."

Last year UCI cinemas attracted 21 million customers and had a turnover of £100 million. Around one third of revenue comes from ancillary sales, including drinks, foods and film merchandise. UCI is a joint venture between US film groups Paramount, whose parent company is Viacom, and MCA, whose parent is Seagram.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES		
FT-SE 100	2734.8	(-0.1)
Yield	3.83%	
FT-SE A All share	1829.69	(+0.34)
Nikkei	20589.29	(-74.84)
New York		
Dow Jones	5283.31	(+11.58)
S&P Composite	622.60	(+0.88)
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	110 1/4%	(111 1/4%)
Yield	5.08%	(6.05%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	110 1/4%	(110 1/4%)
future (Mar)		
STERLING		
New York	1.5068*	(1.5035)
London		
DM	1.5073	(1.5030)
DM	2.2399	(2.2412)
FF	7.6980	(7.6980)
SF	1.8186	(1.8182)
Yen	161.06	(160.33)
£ Index	83.2	(83.1)
DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.4848*	(1.4915)
FF	5.1060*	(5.1345)
SF	1.2680*	(1.2107)
Yen	106.89*	(106.85)
£ Index	96.6	(96.8)
Tokyo close Yen 106.87		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	\$15.80	(\$16.15)
GOLD		
London close	\$405.75	(\$408.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

Share prices

We have updated our prices page today to bring the listings into line with the categories drawn up by the Financial Times Stock Exchange actuaries committee. The business services sector has disappeared, spirits and wines become alcoholic beverages and breweries now include pub and restaurant groups. Page 29

Britain's largest pay negotiations opened yesterday with a 2.4 per cent offer to 1.5 million workers. Page 24, Philip Bassett, page 27

Banks add to gloom on mortgages

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANKS reported a sharp drop in demand for mortgages in December, rounding off what the British Bankers' Association called a dismal year for the housing market.

Seasonally adjusted net lending by the leading British banking groups fell 20 per cent from November's £686 million to £554 million in December.

New approvals were also well down on November. These figures are not seasonally adjusted but the BBA said that the drop to 19,241 from 29,291 in November was much larger than the one between November and December 1994.

Yesterday's banking figures confirm the picture of weaker mortgage lending by building societies published last week. The BBA put a brave face on the news, saying that recent interest rate cuts and growth in incomes point to firmer conditions in the housing market this year.

Stagecoach offers ticket to riches

By ERIC REGULY

EMPLOYEES of GM Buses South Holdings of Manchester will receive a 1,000 per cent return on their investment after the company's purchase by Stagecoach, the largest bus operator.

Stagecoach has agreed to buy GMBS for £40.7 million, equivalent to £10 a share. About 1,600 employees, who own 51 per cent of GMBS, subscribed to shares at £1 each in March 1994. Six managers, who collectively own 198,000 shares, will come out with almost £2 million. The return was not enough to make

millionaires of any of the employees. GMBS, which has 2,000 employees and 750 buses, is Stagecoach's largest bus company purchase. Its annual turnover of about £51 million will raise the turnover of the Stagecoach group, including South West Trains, to about £770 million.

Shareholders of GMBS can take Stagecoach shares, five-year loan notes or cash. NatWest Venture Investments and Montagu Private Equity Investments, the two institutions that own 49 per cent of GMBS, have agreed to take cash.

Almost half of the purchase price was financed through the private placement

yesterday of 6 million Stagecoach shares at 33p. The shares closed at 36p, up 18p.

Ross Griffiths, commercial director of GMBS, said: "The board has received what it considers the right offer, including employee protection."

Stagecoach said there would be no compulsory redundancies at GMBS for three years. It said the purchase will enhance earnings from the onset. The private placement will help to reduce gearing to about 100 per cent by the end of April, from 144 per cent in October.

Tempus, page 26



UCI plans six new multiplexes by the end of next year

John Lee Hooker

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□ Bank may have passed sell-by date □ Waiting for Greenspan to cut □ Where silence is golden in the City

Backing the Standard response

IF STANDARD Chartered had really been receiving informal takeover approaches from any number of Swiss, US and British banks over the past three weeks, Patrick Gillam, its chairman, would probably have cancelled a two-week skiing holiday in the US and postponed business trips to Asia this month.

The fact that he did not suggest that, true to the party line, there have been no approaches, informal or otherwise. That does not mean that Swiss Bank Corporation, UBS, Credit Suisse, Bank of America, NatWest et al would not be interested at the right price.

But the time and price for such a move was eighteen months or two years ago. Even last year would have been better, when Standard Chartered's shares were at 247p. Now they stand at 636p, a price that analysts say reflects a serious re-rating.

Standard Chartered, like Zeneca, Thorn EMI and most recently Ladbroke, is seen as one of that select bunch of obvious bid stocks where only the last punter in will lose money in these top-heavy markets. Yet rational analysis suggests the shares are where they are today mainly on fundamentals, that is, the prospects for growth in the Far East.

Standard Chartered should, therefore, maintain this price on its own, and analysts say the

shares could even reach 700p without looking stretched.

More than half of Standard Chartered's profits come from Asia Pacific, a proportion that can only rise. The bank is well placed to move into the promised land of South China in the longer term, and into other markets in the region as banking licences become available.

Yesterday's curt statement denied formal discussions, or proposals which would involve the acquisition or merger of the company, or the purchase of a strategic shareholding in the company, or by implication any other link as yet undreamt of by the gossip-mongers. As if to disprove the existence of any bid premium, the shares then fell just a couple of pence, and that on the back of a weak Hong Kong market.

Lloyds recognised the value of Standard Chartered's Far Eastern franchise in July 1986, when it built up a hostile stake after two formal offers for the bank failed. Speculation that another bid was in the offing continued for the next nine years until, in April 1995, Lloyds finally sold its

4.69 per cent stake in the market. Given estimates of an £8 billion take-out value of Standard Chartered by a hostile bidder, the goodwill write off involved would be far too great for NatWest to consider, and probably too much even for the other candidates.

Each of the banks said to be interested in a bid might be interested in a reasonably sized stake in the bank, a friendlier version of Lloyds' hostile investment. However, Standard Chartered's denial suggests that if any of them are considering such a thing, they have yet to inform Standard Chartered.

Why Fed rates above the rest

THE politicians' grand plan for European Monetary Union may be falling apart but the markets seem curiously unperturbed. There is good reason for their equanimity. The foreign exchange markets have always had an abiding distaste for the whole idea of fixing currencies because it means less business.



Apart from some pre-emptive buying of marks in anticipation that the mighty German currency will not, after all, be traded in for the shaky Euro, they seem content to watch EMU's implosion with quiet satisfaction. There is plenty of time for fireworks once the politicians catch up with reality.

The shorter-term reason why the world's bond and equity markets have been doing so well is the belief that interest rates are heading downwards. The Bundesbank has made clear that, although it will stick to its orthodox position of worrying about M3 money supply and keep official rates on hold, it is perfectly happy to drive down market rates — hardly a surprise, given the fragile state of the German economy and its European satellites.

Thankfully, there is no such craving for monetary orthodoxy in America, where market attention turns today. The US Federal Reserve is that prince among central banks, unencumbered with ideology and positively rich in pragmatism. Alan Greenspan has always cautiously pursued the goal of the maximum growth obtainable without inflation, happy to cut rates as long as inflation is low and the bond markets are supportive even if there is no real evidence of economic weakness. This is the key reason why US rates can be expected to fall again. The odds marginally favour the March meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, rather than today's, because of a number of God and man-made factors.

Those man-made factors include a Boeing strike and two government shutdowns, which depressed growth and meant that many key statistics were delayed. God intervened with winter blizzards which will also have dampened output. The Fed may want to see a more normal run of data before a decision. But, with the markets expecting a cut, Mr Greenspan may see no need to wait.

A crack in the Chinese wall

SOME of the worst cases of insider trading have come after breaches of the Chinese wall between highly paid and intrinsically unprofitable analysts and those in corporate finance or elsewhere within the same integrated securities house who daily wage knee-deep in filthy lucre. HSBC is well aware of the danger from the loss of even the odd brick from that wall.

The bank's problem, along with almost everyone else in the City, is that the analysts' research can be useful to boost that corporate finance work, but there is no way of cross-subsidising that research or ensuring the analysts are rewarded. Yesterday's merger of James Capel and Samuel Montagu involves a brave stab at this.

The aim is that analysts at Capel should be paid for provid-

ing research to the Montagu corporate finance department. The risk here would seem to be to the broker-client relationship.

If a company lets on to its corporate broker during an informal chat that it would quite like to bolt on a swizzle-stick manufacturer to its existing operations, that company is going to be a little unnerved to learn from that broker's corporate finance arm the next day that one such is indeed on the market, at a given price. Alternatively, the company might be quite pleased at such an example of one-stop shopping — but the finance director will be very careful what that analyst learns thereafter.

Qualities of despair

RESPECT, drive, initiative, determination, self-discipline and a willingness to learn: none of them come to mind immediately when the average school-leaver walks in the door. Yet they are identified as the main qualities sought by employers of young people in a deeply depressing survey by the oxymoronically named Industry in Education. Most employers would settle for rather less. A glancing familiarity with written English, for example, an ability to communicate other than by grunts, knuckles that managed to clear the ground...

Midshires will not ward off speculators

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

DESPITE a 25 per cent increase in new accounts, the Birmingham Midshires Building Society announced yesterday it would not keep speculators at bay by raising its minimum deposit from £100. The society cited concern for small savers as the reason. Recently, some competitors have imposed a £2500 minimum.

The society has always said it has no wish to seek a merger or become a bank. An investment of £100 gains voting rights in a society and a benefit from any flotation payout or free share distribution. Mike Jackson, chief executive, said: "Building societies are the natural home of the small saver and genuine customers have had the door slammed in their faces in the past few weeks."

Elsewhere, a pressure group has been formed to urge the Bradford & Bingley to seek a market flotation, rather than return £50 million of profits to members in a mutually benefits package of improved savers' rates and discounted mortgages.

Michael Hardern, the founder of Members for Conversion claims B&B could be worth £1.5 billion, about £750 per member. The body intends to requisition a special meeting to discuss the future of the society. Dr John Wrigglesworth, head of strategy, said: "The idea that a saver can place £100 with us and immediately lay claim to a £750 equity stake is legally wrong."

Persimmon buys Ideal Homes from Trafalgar for £170m

BY CARL MORTSHED

TRAFALGAR HOUSE has sold Ideal Homes, its housebuilding arm, to Persimmon for £170 million in a deal which leaves little room for Beazer Homes to mount a competing bid. The acquisition will turn Persimmon into Britain's fourth largest housebuilder, selling 6,000 homes per year.

Beazer had protested that it was shut out of the bidding for Ideal this month when Trafalgar offered an exclusive negotiating period to Persimmon. Yesterday's deal, which Persimmon is financing in part by a one-for-two rights issue, is subject to the approval of Persimmon and Trafalgar shareholders.

Beazer said yesterday that it was still interested in buying Ideal Homes but the company will have to intervene quickly to seek the support of Trafalgar shareholders who will vote on the Persimmon deal on February 22. Dennis Webb, chief executive of Beazer, said an offer from Beazer would depend on their assessment of Ideal's tax losses.

"We believe there are tax losses. We said we would pay a premium to net assets but we will have to see Persimmon's figures," he said.

Persimmon said the deal would enhance earnings but its directors were cagey yesterday on the numbers that lay behind their prediction. Duncan Davidson, chairman of Persimmon, said commercial confidentiality prevented him from disclosing the full value of the tax losses in Ideal Homes. "It's perfectly possible for another bidder to come in," he said. "We expect our tax charge to be significantly below the stated 33 per cent rate." Persimmon is raising



Duncan Davidson, chairman, said commercial confidentiality prevented him from disclosing the value of tax losses

£91 million in a one-for-two rights issue at 155p per share to help to finance the £170 million purchase price which represents a premium to the net asset value of Ideal Homes last year of £151 million.

Ideal Homes sells 2,600 houses per year, making operating profits of £18.6 million in the year to September and Mr Davidson described the two companies as a good fit, extending Persimmon's opera-

tion into Wales and the South West. The company will take a charge of £2 million for the cost of cutting the number of regional offices by six to 15. Gearing is expected to rise to 60 per cent post the acquisition but will fall to 50 per cent by the end of the year.

Persimmon suffered from a two-point fall in operating margin in the year to December because of the weak housing market. The company

estimates that pre-tax profit in 1995 was £22.5 million, down from £24.3 million in 1994.

Persimmon sold 3,593 homes last year, fewer than expected. Mr Davidson said that December sales showed an uplift on the previous year and he expects an uplift of 3 per cent in house prices. Persimmon forecasts a final dividend of 6.5p.

Tempos, page 26

Daiwa sells US assets to Sumitomo

BY GEORGE SIVELL

DAIWA BANK has sold its American assets just days before the US deadline set for the Japanese bank to quit the country over the \$1.1 billion of bond losses revealed last year and allegations of misleading US regulators.

Daiwa yesterday announced the sale of more than \$3 billion worth of its US business assets to Sumitomo Bank of Japan.

The two banks said they had agreed Daiwa would transfer loans and related business assets worth \$3.3 billion from its US branches and New York trust bank unit to Sumitomo by Friday.

Sumitomo would also pay Daiwa \$65 million for rights to the business at 15 of its US branches and its trust bank arm, Daiwa said. It did not know when payment would be made. Daiwa has 17 branches in the US, two of which are expected to close.

Analysts in Tokyo said the banks' decision had been widely expected and came as no surprise to the market.

"The deal is unlikely to give much benefit to Sumitomo or boost its earnings," said Noriomi Kunishige, assistant general manager at Kleinwort Benson International. "It's

just aimed at helping out Daiwa."

In November US authorities served the bank with a 24-count criminal indictment after it revealed it had suffered \$1.1 billion in losses as a result of unauthorized bond deals by one of its traders in New York.

They ordered the bank to close its doors in the US by Friday.

Daiwa has denied the charges and vowed to fight them. The allegations include the accusation that it covered up the losses. Banking analysts said the shutdown would have a gradual negative impact on Daiwa's overall international operations.

Daiwa says it has a total of \$4.3 billion in loans and other transactions in the US. The remaining \$1 billion would be transferred to its parent body in Japan.

Analysts believed the assets Sumitomo had agreed to take were mostly good loans, and that Daiwa would be left with most of its problem loans in the US. Daiwa also had other types of assets there, including securities, the bank said, and it was likely that some would be sold.

Presidents of the two banks have said they will consider a merger if the right time comes.

BANK OF SCOTLAND INTEREST RATE CHANGE

With effect from 29th January 1996, interest rates payable on the undernoted accounts have changed.

MONEY MARKET CHEQUE ACCOUNT	Gross %
£250,000 and above	5.75
£100,000 to £249,999	4.75
£25,000 to £99,999	4.50
£2,500 to £24,999	3.75

BANKING DIRECT CHEQUE ACCOUNT	Gross %
£100,000 and above	4.75
£25,000 to £99,999	2.00
£10,000 to £24,999	1.60
£5,000 to £9,999	1.00
Less than £5,000	0.25

MONEY MARKET BUSINESS CHEQUE ACCOUNT	Gross %
£250,000 and above	5.75
£100,000 to £249,999	4.75
£25,000 to £99,999	3.75
£2,500 to £24,999	3.25

BANKING DIRECT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT	Gross %
£250,000 and above	6.00
£25,000 to £249,999	5.50
£10,000 to £24,999	4.75
£5,000 to £9,999	4.00
Less than £5,000	3.25

BANK OF SCOTLAND CENTREBANK DIVISION

*Gross - The annual rate of interest payable without the deduction of basic rate income tax to eligible non tax-payers. Interest payable monthly. Interest rates subject to variation.

Hanson takes control of Desimpel

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HANSON, the industrial conglomerate, yesterday launched its first foray into the European brick market with the £125 million purchase of Desimpel Kortemark, a Belgian brickmaker.

Hanson has secured a controlling stake of 50.1 per cent in the company after offering the Desimpel family £62 million. It intends to buy out the minority stake on the same terms.

Desimpel owns 11 factories in Belgium, four in The Netherlands and France and one in the UK. The company made an operating profit of £17.3 million in the nine months to September and has net debts of £70.5 million.

Richard Manning, managing director of Hanson Brick, said: "This acquisition is an exciting move into new markets and will establish Hanson Brick as a leading manufacturer of clay bricks in Europe."

Alme Desimpel, who founded the business, will be succeeded by his son, Kristoff.

Tempos, page 26

Buyout at Lep as receivers move in

BY GEORGE SIVELL

THE management buyout of Lep International, the Surrey global freight forwarder, from Lep, the troubled parent company, was completed yesterday.

Lep International said yesterday: "A one pound down payment has been made to facilitate the transfer of the ownership to the new holding company, Lep International Worldwide."

Meanwhile, Ian Bond and Mark Palios, insolvency partners with Coopers & Lybrand, were appointed as administrative receivers to Lep Group, the parent company and eight British non-trading subsidiaries. The parent company owes £127 million to a group of banks, led by National Westminster, which have already swapped £180 million of debts into equity.

Mr Bond said: "Even under the most optimistic scenario there will only be a partial return to the company's bankers. Unfortunately there is no possibility of any funds becoming available to shareholders." Shareholders will meet on February 16.

Yes, but can it really produce 75,000 copies per month?

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Red tape can't tie Powe down

The Gas Consumers Council, which yesterday reported the number of moans against British Gas has doubled in the past year, is in a quandary. Ian Powe, the council's director, has opened a "gifts register" in which everything given to any employee and valued at more than £25 will be logged. Trouble is, the first entry in its new register could be a British Gas corporate tie. Powe was given one recently by Roy Gardner, executive director for supply, retail and service at British Gas, after what Powe says was "a most useful bridge-building meeting".

The label proclaims: "Toys, Kenning & Spencer. By Appointment to HM The Queen. Suppliers of gold and silver lace, insignia and embroidery." Powe thinks the tie rather handsome, and hopes it does not offend the £25 rule. He wants to wear it, but with a clear conscience. "I was a captain in the Royal Navy before joining the council in 1986, so I am accustomed to wearing gold braid round the sleeves of my uniform," he notes.

Anderson country

POOR old British Gas. A woman phoned the Scottish regional office to say "I've heard all about your troubles on Baywatch... Perhaps she meant Watchdog... or could it have been Crimewatch?"

BUSINESS is not too good in New York. A sign in a Manhattan jeweller's shop window reads: "Business Stinks Sale".



"Let's go down to Harry Ramsden's"

Hello boys

TWO embarrassed City financiers can expect their telephones to ring non-stop when the latest edition of *Company* magazine hits the streets. The corporate angels have not done anything wrong. But they have been named, with their picture, in a list of Britain's 50 most eligible bachelors, along with a string of adjectives that include rich, handsome, fun and funky.

The Hon Henry Stewart, 23, corporate finance analyst at merchant bank Schroders, and Mark Frankle, 25, a foreign exchange dealer at a French bank, sense that mystery women and/or colleagues put their names forward. Also listed is Joel Cadbury — yes, it's his name on the chocolate bars. Frankle hopes the publicity will entice dreary foreign exchange markets. As for Stewart, well, he had hoped to have left these shores quietly before *Company* hit the streets. "I'm off to New York on secondment shortly," the "blond, blue-eyed hunk with all the right credentials" blushed.

Red hot

DENISE DOWEN, environmental lawyer with Dickinson Dees in Newcastle, is obviously a girl with spirit. Asked by *The Lawyer* magazine what her most often-worn piece of clothing was she replied "A Princess Di face mask". And her most embarrassing professional moment? "Setting fire to a slide projector at a client seminar."

COLIN CAMPBELL

Would real earnings growth spell economic suicide?

Philip Bassett on the part 'new pay' has to play in negotiations for better salaries

Pay settlements are running ahead of inflation, according to an independent analysis yesterday of current wage deals. Yet Adair Turner, leader of the Confederation of British Industry, provoked an outcry when he suggested that Britain's traditional pay and price spiral is now so distant as to make the prospect of non-inflationary real wages growth not just likely, but desirable.

What is going on in pay? For the past two or three years while inflation, although broadly both low and stable, has bounced around a little, earnings growth has not taken off as unemployment has fallen — as our graphic shows.

This apparent reversal of trends over the last 30 years prompted the CBI's Director-General to suggest that real earnings would have to, and should, rise if economic growth is to be sustained over the longer term — prompting over-excited media headlines about "bosses urge big pay rises". Yet at the same time, studies such as that from the independent Incomes Data Services yesterday suggest that pay settlements are not only running ahead of inflation, but are at a higher level than they were a year ago.

Though Mr Turner's analysis unnerved some ministers and traditional business leaders, most remain sanguine about pay, based largely on the flatness of the monthly average earnings figures, although there is some argument among statisticians about how much pay volatility the Government's official underlying earnings figures smooth out.

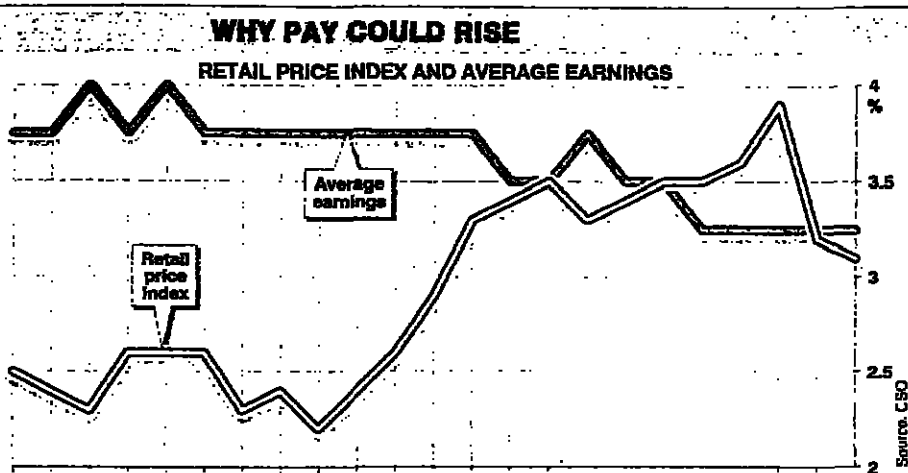
Separate earnings figures from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey look less sanguine, with actual earnings levels for all employees up a good deal more than the month index suggests.

But ministers and business leaders remain more worried about comparative competitiveness problems rather than earnings levels themselves. For instance, Vauxhall, which has just settled a relatively serious pay dispute with its manual workers over the company's two-year inflation-linked pay offer, cites such concerns about misinterpretations, which might be made of Mr Turner's views by shop-floor bargainers.

Aspects of the UK's rising comparative unit labour costs, and indeed the first downturn this month in productivity for a decade, ministers have more than an eye on the political opportunity of attacking Labour's commitments on the social chapter and the minimum wage. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, emphasises Britain's low non-wage costs in comparison with its European competitors. Eric Forth, the Education Minister, may well be pressed on pay

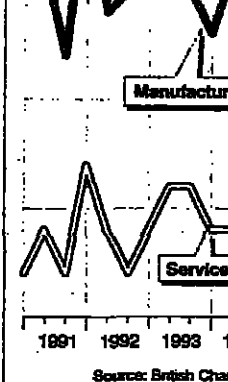


"Rising real incomes are not in the long term a threat - but a key part of what we hope our economy will achieve" Adair Turner CBI Director-General



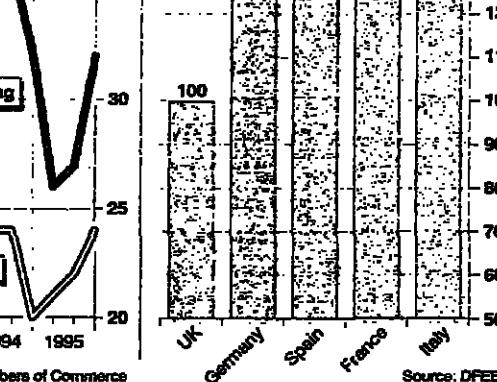
PAY CONCERNS

Balance of companies listing pay as an issue of concern



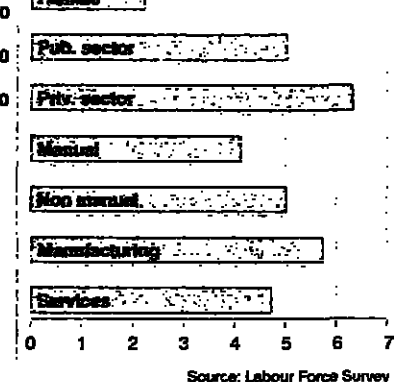
UK WAGE COST COMPARISONS

Wage and non-wage costs



EARNINGS RISE

Actual earnings changes



Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, provoked outcry with his preference for non-inflationary pay rises

in the light of Mr Turner's remarks by MPs today when he gives evidence to the last public sitting of the all-party Commons Employment Select Committee after the Government's scrapping last year of the Department of Employment.

Vauxhall's settlement of its dispute does not mean, though, that there are no clouds on the pay horizon. Ford is facing an industrial action ballot among its manual workers over its two-year pay offer, though Vauxhall's deal may reduce sharply the readiness of Ford employees to increase their sporadic bouts of action.

Local government leaders are warning of an unusually tough pay round for council employees this year, as some of the large unions seek to establish a beach-head for their pre-emptive industrial target of a £4 minimum wage, though ministers believe likely rises will not be unacceptably high.

But pay specialists are increasingly suspicious about the attention given to so-called pacesetter companies such as Ford, arguing that if such an idea has any relevance at all now in an era of fragmented and decentralised pay bargaining, then the much larger employee numbers in service sector companies, such as BT or Tesco, might well be more influential. Indeed, at the Institute of Personnel and Development

conference addressed last week by Mr Turner, there was much talk of so-called "new pay".

New pay, as personnel vanguardists see it, is not about old forms of pay bargaining, but about the new kinds of pay flexibilities — profit-related pay, performance-related pay, team-based pay, and so on — the impact of which on Britain's labour market were, for Mr Turner, central to why the idea of real earnings growth in the future would not be "economic suicide" and would be unlikely to lead to any return of the pay-price spiral.

New research by the CBI with Hay management consultants among a sample of 3,000 organisations shows widespread actual, or planned, adoption of new pay flexibilities, with up to 56 per cent of companies citing increasing pay and performance links as a key factor driving pay changes for executives and senior managers over both the past two and the next two years, for instance — though tighter cost control is still seen as a more important factor for manual employees' pay.

Nevertheless, pay remains a company concern, with evidence from the British Chambers of Commerce industrial surveys suggesting it is seen increasingly as a worry by both manufacturing and service firms, while for Eddie George, Bank of England Governor, it remains a threat

to inflation and the reason for the higher interest rates weapon. If increased pay flexibilities give business leaders greater cause to be optimistic about pay in the economy, they can lead to some remarkably high-looking deals.

Sun Life of Canada has just awarded merit rises averaging 6 per cent to office staff. Performance-related pay increases averaging 4.7 per cent came in this month for 7,500 Thomas Cook employees. Britannia Life staff's merit awards ranged up to 9.25 per cent and averaged 4 per cent. Even some traditional, non-"new" pay rises have been for increases higher than ministers claim is common. Nissan's January rise was for 4 per cent in the second half of a two-stage deal, as was Nestlé's agreement for its craft workers. British Steel agreed increases for its 13,700 employees totalling 4.5 per cent.

Business leaders argue that there is little read-across from such rises to pay in the economy generally, insisting that as long as companies' individual productivity and profitability continue to grow, then they are correct to pay such increases. Even so, the scale of such rises will not sit easily with the idea that pay, prices and growth are in such a state of equilibrium, floating on a cushion of increased pay and labour market flexibilities, that they preface an eventual return to growth in real wages.



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Seismic shift over growth

Twelve days ago I thought I was being controversial when I wrote that austerity was going out of fashion. In predicting that "1996 will be the year when people all over the world decide they have had enough of deflationary claptrap" I was trying to stick my neck out.

But now my attempted flight of fancy has turned into the blandest conventional wisdom. In the past week almost everyone who matters in the global economy — from Helmut Kohl, Jacques Chirac and Bill Clinton down to Adair Turner, the Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry — has jumped on to the anti-austerity, pro-growth bandwagon.

When I heard Britain's main industrialists' organisation calling for higher wages I thought there must be some mistake. But when this prescription was broadly endorsed by other captains of industry and employers' organisations there could be no doubt: a seismic shift in opinion was really under way.

Outside Britain, there have been far more astonishing tergiversations. In America, politicians no longer seem to take seriously the need for a balanced budget. In Europe, the hairshirt of Maastricht is being discarded like an uncomfortable frock that has gone out of style.

To detail the gyrations in the French position is tedious and pointless. French politicians are changing their minds on EMU by the hour, the only thing that matters is whether the number of U-turns since President Chirac's last apparently authoritative pronouncement has been even or odd.

In France, EMU causes an overvalued currency and a perpetual recession. But in Germany its effect is the mirror image of that in France — EMU is a source of welcome inflation or, to put it more positively, a salvation from the overvalued mark. So the Germans are suddenly keener on EMU.

Last week saw several Bundesbank directors arguing that Germany had to stick to the Maastricht time-

table to avoid a deflationary flight of money into the mark. Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, was even more explicit: Germany must stick to the EMU timetable to avoid "a strong appreciation of the mark (that would) hurt exports and jobs". Herr Kohl has begun to hint strongly at a retreat from the Maastricht fiscal targets, which Germans politicians had sworn unanimously to defend to the last drop of French and Belgian blood.

The clearest message of all was delivered by Jean-Luc Dehaene, the plain-speaking Belgian Prime Minister. M. Dehaene's statement that "competitive disinflation may become as disruptive as a policy of competitive devaluation" was the monetary equivalent of Moses smashing the tablets he brought down from Mt Sinai.

The European elite have finally been converted to a policy preached in these columns: in a world where the main economic problem is not inflation but unemployment, a weak currency is a positive virtue, while a strong currency is an economic evil, which governments must do their utmost to fight.

Devaluation is not, of course, a state of economic bliss that all countries can attain simultaneously. If one currency is falling, another must, by definition, be rising. However, merely aspiring to achieve a weak currency involves a loosening of monetary policy, which imparts a benign expansionary effect not only to the country in question, but to the world economy.

In the end, of course, the expansionary forces may produce another upsurge in world inflation. This is why the gold price has suddenly begun to perk up. But to move straight from worrying about a worldwide slump to fretting about a new inflationary crisis is irrational, even by the standards of financial markets and central bankers. The goldbugs' excitement seems premature. The time to buy gold — and to start worrying about global inflation — may be approaching, but it has not arrived yet.

Jon Ashworth on the ultimate client entertainment

Thrills and perhaps spills for business high-flyers

Tired of the same old client entertainment? Worried about losing those key accounts? Well, how about this... well-heeled stockbrokers can let their favoured contacts loose at the controls of a British Airways Concorde, in what must amount to the ultimate in British corporate hospitality.

Novice pilots can swoop low level over Manhattan or even attempt to steer Concorde between the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in a manoeuvre that would have Wall Street bankers diving for cover. Humbler types can take a Boeing 747 for a spin to Hong Kong and back, then take to the sky in a vintage Tiger Moth biplane. The possibilities are endless.

Manhattan, of course, will never really be at risk from over-excited fund managers or marketing men. The action takes place in flight simulators spread around the UK — the fruits of a company called Simulation, based in Clacton, Essex, which combines fly-boy thrills with the more mundane pleasures of fine food and wine. Business is booming, and there is something for everyone.

The ultimate package takes in the BA Concorde simulator, which has never before been available for corporate entertainment. Parties of up to six can dine at Thornbury Castle before taking off by helicopter for the BA facility at Filton, Bristol. Budding pilots can pass under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and hurdle past the Statue of Liberty before attempting touchdown at JFK International.

Those who really want to splash out can start with Concorde, then board a genuine Cessna Citation executive jet for



Favoured contacts can be given the chance to take the controls of flight simulators

a flight to Deauville in France. They return after a splendid lunch — costing about £3,000 to £4,000 for a six-strong group. The Concorde Simulator alone costs £1,639 plus VAT for six people.

Angus Grahame, director of Simulation, says big corporations consider the money well spent. He said: "They say 'this client is worth to me so many hundred thousand pounds a year'. To do something this special is well worth it."

A popular package offers up to 30 minutes at the controls of a jumbo jet, before taking to the air for real in a Tiger Moth. The "Big Jets and Biplanes" programme is suitable for up to 32

guests at a time and is held around Gatwick.

The Tiger Moth flights take place from Redhill Aerodrome, which has a clubhouse. Biggles fans can pose in goggles and flying jacket for sepia photographs. The programme typically costs £299 plus VAT per head.

Straightforward simulator packages, starting at £127 plus VAT per head for up to eight guests, are available at Heathrow, Luton, East Midlands, Manchester and Prestwick. A training session in a real Cessna or similar fixed-wing aircraft can be arranged. Demand is more restricted since these venues have only one available

simulator and guests have to fit in with the demands of professional pilots.

Mr Grahame admits to some close calls, but says crashing is actively discouraged. "It can throw the machines off their joists."

One of the most challenging experiences is the Chinook helicopter simulator at Farnborough. An hour costs £329 plus VAT per head. Guests get to attempt to land on oil rigs.

Simulation formerly offered flips on RAF trainers and hopes to break back into the military aviation market. War-crazed enthusiasts could soon be dodging tracers on a low-level bombing raid over Baghdad.

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Equities static as gilts fall

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days' close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Japan seeks support for £40bn home loans bailout

FROM PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO

The Japanese Government has asked Japan's taxpayers to support its latest scheme to liquidate *jusen* (housing loan) companies. The Chief Cabinet Secretary said the Government "felt a pain like drinking boiling water" over its decision to use public money.

Government and coalition parties have endorsed the plan by which losses on outstanding loans at the mortgage companies — many of which are virtually bankrupt — will be shared between the Government and the private sector. Combined with 665 billion yen (£4.24 billion) in public funds the Government intends to use to cover immediate losses, the final burden is likely to be at least ¥10,000 for every person in Japan.

The ruling coalition has formally agreed to authorise ¥1.2 trillion of public money to pay for the *jusen* disaster. But the final bill to Japan's taxpayers is likely to be even higher. The Government has promised to pay back half of whatever is not recovered by asset sales. So far ¥1.2 trillion is irrecoverable, but almost daily more losses are discovered.

The Government's plan includes the creation of the Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Japanese Resolution Trust Corporation — similar to the US Resolution Trust Corporation created by Congress to clean up the savings and loans mess in 1989.

The ¥10 trillion of bad debts held by *jusen* housing loan companies account for about 17 per cent of Japan's bad debts and many are held by Japan's *yakuza* gangsters.

The Deposit Insurance Corporation is empowered to recover as much collateral as possible over the next ten years but as Hitoshi Yamada,

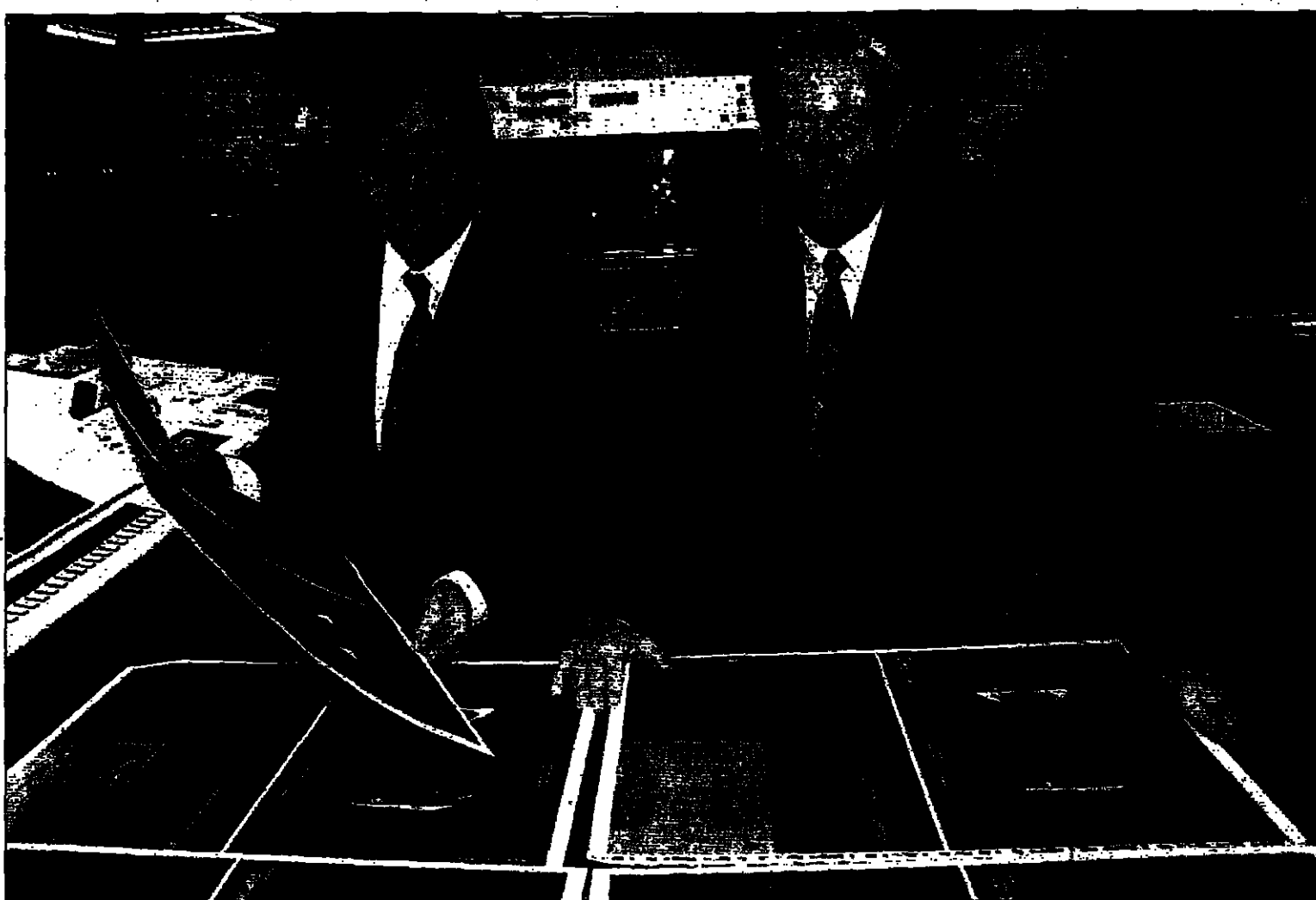
head of the Japan Bar Association's sub-committee on organised crime points out, the Government's plan is "just a way to hand lots of money to gangsters". To add to the Government's woes, some economists estimate total problem loans may be ¥80 trillion.

A Finance Ministry official has said the ¥1.2 trillion of public money to pay for the *jusen* debacle will be merely the first of several contributions from the private sector. This has also been asked to help to solve the widening problem of bad loans, by buying bonds issued by troubled banks within their *keiretsu* corporate group. Banks are being helped to write off bad debts by using "hidden profits" on their property holdings which rely on official valuations 50 per cent above market prices.

Three years ago the Government and banks set up the Credit Purchasing Corporation in a similar exercise designed to buy and dispose of bad debt, but so far it has only sold 4 per cent of the ¥10.3 trillion of "assets" which it obtained from troubled financial institutions. As with the *jusen* corporations, many of these are held by *yakuza*.

Ultimately, the Japanese Government faces an impossible dilemma. The Japanese equivalent of the US Resolution Trust Corporation must take losses by selling assets on current valuations which are approximately 70 per cent less than the values ascribed by banks at the peak of Japan's bubble economy. But it cannot dispose of the collateral at such sharp discounts, because it will have to make up any losses with money from the Deposit Insurance Corporation, whose collateral is priced at bubble valuations.

Fulmar flotation will give printer £40m valuation



FULMAR GROUP, the commercial printer which produces brochures, book jackets and annual reports for De Beers, Hodder Headline and other well-known names, is

coming to the market in the spring, in a listing that values the company at £40 million (Jon Ashworth writes).

Mike Taylor, chief executive, said: "We see enormous opportunities both through acquisition and organic growth. This is a very exciting time." The flotation will bring

about £10 million of new money into the company, which made an adjusted operating profit of £2.5 million (£1.9 million) in the year to

December 31. Mr Taylor, who founded Fulmar in 1972 with a £4,000 loan, leads a 220-strong workforce based in Croydon, Surrey.

December 31. Mr Taylor, who founded Fulmar in 1972 with a £4,000 loan, leads a 220-strong workforce based in Croydon, Surrey.

Portfolio Fund gets new owner

Portfolio Fund Management, the fund manager formed in 1989 by Richard Timberlake, former managing director of Fidelity, has been bought by TransAtlantic Holdings in a deal worth £579,000.

David Fischel, managing director of TransAtlantic, becomes chairman of Portfolio. Tim Miller, former group marketing director of M&G, remains chief executive.

Dwyer deal

Dwyer Estates, in a joint venture with Charterhouse Property Investments, has exchanged contracts to buy a portfolio of 14 trading properties from Manulife, in a deal worth £14.55 million. Most of the properties are located in the south of England. Separately, Whitecroft, the building products and specialist materials group, has completed its withdrawal from commercial property development, with the sale of a property in Farnham, Surrey. The sale raised £1.4 million.

Sale in Spain

Asot Holdings has agreed conditionally to the sale of its ten Spanish hotels and holiday clubs to a subsidiary of Riu, a leading Spanish hotel group, for £41.45 million in cash. The deal takes group borrowings to about £5 million, compared with £302.1 million as at September 1992, and is part of a continuing programme of asset sales.

ABB order

ABB, the international electrical engineering company, has clinched an order to build a 2,000-megawatt combined-cycle power plant in South Korea, at Poryong, about 180 kilometres southwest of Seoul. The deal is worth about \$400 million to ABB.

VCI cheer

VCI, the independent video and audio publishing group, enjoyed a strong and successful Christmas trading period, according to newly released figures. Trading has improved across all sectors.

China's CD pirates about to be sunk

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE music industry is turning to technology in its bid to curb China's booming pirate compact disc business, using a method developed by PolyGram, the Dutch record company, to pinpoint the factory where an illegal CD has been made.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), which represents the major record labels, says the introduction of this system to China has led to panic among the owners of CD factories, particularly the increasing numbers producing

pornographic CD-Roms and video CDs. Nic Garnett, director-general of the IFPI, said pornographers in China can be punished by death.

PolyGram's system works by running a computer analysis of the moulding pattern of the "pits" — the little bumps on a CD's surface which carry the music, or information. This profile can then be matched to the mould from which the CD came.

The breakthrough in China came when the Shanghai Aerospace Agency began to co-operate with the IFPI and

adopted the process late last year. The IFPI and US authorities remain worried about the growth of piracy in China, which now has about 30 factories with a pressing capacity of 100 million CDs per year. With domestic demand no higher than 15 million CDs, huge numbers are sold to Hong Kong and Russia.

Chinese authorities have largely failed to keep promises made in February last year to introduce the IFPI's system of source identification codes (SIDs), used throughout the rest

of the world to identify the factory where each CD was made. Promises of a six-month blitz on pirate factories were also largely unfulfilled. The IFPI blames central authorities' inability to enforce measures in the provinces.

The US Government, under pressure from its huge music industry, is thought to be close to reviving a threat made before last February's agreement to impose punitive sanctions worth \$1 billion on Chinese exports if China does not take more effective action against its pirates.

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LAW

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● LAW REPORT 19

The result of the Maxwell brothers' case has put the system under the spotlight

SHOULD the lid be lifted on the secrets of the jury system? The Maxwell brothers' verdict reopened debate about whether juries should be scrapped for complex fraud trials, *Frances Gibb* writes. George Staple, director of the Serious Fraud Office, favours abolition; Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, Attorney-General, believes the issue should be re-examined and says the Government will look "very

carefully" at whether fraud trial juries should be replaced with a judge and two experts. But voices are being raised in defence of the system: Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, and Christopher Sallon, QC, speaking for the Bar, said the verdicts "vindicated" trial by jury. The debate is hampered by lack of information on how juries carry out their task — and research is banned by law. A change in the law to

allow research was recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in 1993, which is supported by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor. Last week, too, Lord Donaldson of Lynton, former Master of the Rolls, said he would welcome research. But Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, is opposed, saying he would view any move "with concern". He believes research could lead to

criminals seeking to overturn their convictions on the basis of disclosures about jurors' thinking. He said: "The lay jury is the foundation of our common law and nothing must be allowed to interfere with the confidentiality of its deliberations." In the so-called *Ouija* board case, a man charged with two murders won a retrial after four jurors had used a *Ouija* board to consult one of his victims.



George Staple: favours abolition of fraud jury



Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC: issue needs re-examining



Lord Mackay: wants research on juries



Lord Donaldson: would welcome research



Lord Taylor: would view research "with concern"

Putting juries on trial

Research into decision-making by jurors is illegal. Mike McConville says why he thinks this is wrong

The dramatic "not guilty" verdicts in the Maxwell brothers' trial may well represent the most carefully deliberated suicide note in legal history. Indeed, the obituary notices for fraud-case juries are being prepared even before death has occurred while the circling vultures are still in dispute about the identity of the corpse. It remains true that, though the Serious Fraud Office and George Staple, its hapless director, are favoured by some for an early demise, it is the jury itself that seems most likely to require the kiss of life, at least in complex fraud cases.

The first words of the death sentence for fraud juries were uttered ten years ago by the Departmental Committee on Fraud Trials chaired by Lord Roskill. The committee's proposals for reform of the management of fraud prosecutions were acted on almost immediately: its recommendation for a single unified organisation to take on all the functions of detection, investigation and prosecution of serious fraud quickly manifesting itself in the establishment of the Serious Fraud Office. But recommendations for the jury proved politically unsustainable. The public perception of the prosecution in the Maxwell brothers' case as a costly debacle, however, may ease the path of those who would wish the jury killed off. The Roskill Committee believed juries got into difficulties when faced with complex

transactions and financial market dealings outside their experience. Jurors, they felt, could not retain the evidence in long trials and therefore had an insecure foundation for their verdicts. Accordingly, a majority of the committee recommended that juries be replaced in serious fraud cases by trial by judge and two expert lay assessors. But most of the concerns underlying their proposals have been removed and were "certainly not in evidence in the Maxwell brothers' trial". There, the prosecution was handled by a single co-ordinated agency, judge and jurors had full administrative and technological support, the judge took control of the case and applied best-management principles to it, the jury was subject to intensive screening and the indictment, far from being overloaded, was stripped to its bare essentials.

The case also proved what intelligent observers had always argued: that allegations of serious fraud are reducible to simple transactions easily understood by the ordinary person. Against this background, the Maxwell brothers' trial seems more to illustrate the virtues of a modernised system than an example of archaic practice. Yet Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, seems unconvinced. He wants to re-examine the Roskill proposals. The problem, however, is that the information on which any reasoned decision could be based is the same as that available to the Roskill Committee itself — precisely nothing. Roskill did no research into jury decision-making, indeed none has been possible since the Contempt of Court Act, 1981. Before that, I conducted research into jury verdicts with Dr John Baldwin (*Jury Trials*, Oxford University Press). Using questionnaires, we interviewed police, lawyers and judges involved in trials on the verdicts of juries. Their view was that mostly the jury had got it right. In 1992, I also helped with a television programme, *Inside the Jury*, in which a shadow jury watched a series of trials and their deliberations were filmed and matched with the real jury. In the vast majority of cases, the shadow jury came up with the same result. The

film showed their deliberations to be rational and thoughtful and that they had insight into gaps or mistakes in the prosecution or the defence case. Yet the absence of a secure factual basis for what does go on still leaves the field open to speculation, innuendo and prejudice. O.J. Simpson's jury, we are asked to believe, got it wrong through lack of deliberation. In the Maxwell brothers' case they supposedly erred through over-deliberation. Yet the verdict on the jury is made without any deliberation at all and it is hard to believe that the Government would be giving consideration to the issue of jury trial had the Maxwells been convicted.

There is an alternative, more plausible explanation to that of jury error for the Maxwell verdicts: that on the case before them as presented, they got it right. Could it be that the fault — if any — lay with the prosecution, not so much in the way the technical evidence was put to lay jurors, but in its failure to put forward what was necessary to convince a panel of ordinary citizens of an individual's guilt? The Maxwell brothers' jury may well have concluded that a massive fraud had been committed but that the defendants were not personally culpable. If so, we should not be seeking to scrap juries in

such cases but to enable those who prepare prosecutions — who are prevented by restrictive rights of audience from appearing in court before juries — to gain a better understanding of how their fellow citizens weigh up questions of personal guilt or innocence. Changes ought not to be considered without a systematic evaluation of fraud trials by accredited researchers. As we said in 1979: there seems "no good reason why the jury room should continue to be inviolate". This means looking not just at the jury, but also at the organisation, management and presentation of the prosecution, the contribution of the judge and the performance of the defence. Anything less will almost certainly result in a true miscarriage of justice — a fraud on the jury.

● The author is professor of law and director of the Legal Research Institute at Warwick University.

What Labour needs to do

Tony Benn's diaries for January 1975 record that he approached his Cabinet colleague, Lord Elwyn-Jones, the Lord Chancellor, "about the disturbing security case of the Civil Service candidate excluded because she read the *Morning Star*". Appreciating that good advocacy contains large quantities of flattery, Benn told Elwyn-Jones: "I'm talking to you as a great liberal Labour lawyer." Elwyn-Jones was unmoved. "Well," he replied, "I'm Lord Chancellor now."

Postwar Labour governments have promoted substantial legal reforms, including the introduction of legal aid, the creation of the Law Commission and the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race and sex. But Labour Lord Chancellors, and Labour law officers, have frequently disappointed their supporters. On too many issues, Labour lawyers have proved themselves part of the legal establishment which they ought to have been reforming. Some of the difficulties faced by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the present Lord Chancellor, in his attempts to change the legal profession from a gentlemen's club into an efficient business serving the public interest, have been caused by the outrage felt by aggrieved lawyers who realised that here was a politician who actually intended to amend their working practices.

The next Labour government will start with the distinct advantage that a stimulating agenda has been set out in *Law Reform For All*, a collection of essays by 26 Labour lawyers, and edited by David Bean, a barrister, for the Society of Labour Lawyers (Blackstone Press, £14.95). As Tony Blair, the Labour leader, explains in his introduction, the proposals are not party policy, but they will considerably advance the important debate about the future of the legal system.

The main contribution is from the Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC. He presents an incisive and persuasive analysis of what needs to be done to improve access to justice, to confer fundamental rights on individuals, and to reform the law governing such topics as immigration, discrimination and secrecy. He rightly emphasises that legal aid eligibility must be restored to those who have lost it since 1979 and that legal aid should be extended to cases heard by tribunals. He powerfully criticises the Government's proposals to cap legal aid, which would lead to an unprincipled scheme like the discredited social fund.

On some issues, Lord Irvine fails to convince. He has a touching faith in the value of cross-examination as a means of establishing the truth, a belief that finds little support

in social science research. His support for the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law is undermined by the suggestion that a Human Rights Act should "provide that its protections can only be relied on by individuals, and not by companies or by organisations". Are newspapers and trade unions to have no enforceable rights? And how can new Labour expect to win the confidence of the City if the party denies rights to companies?

Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, explains the urgent need to improve the "lamentably amateur" system for selecting, training and monitoring the judiciary. Keith Vaz, MP, and Maria Fernandes call for the restoration of rights of appeal for those refused entry to the United Kingdom as visitors. Michael Supperstone QC makes an eloquent plea for amendment of the law on official secrecy and for a limit to ministers' reliance on "national security" to deny us the right to know how they are governing on our behalf. He diplomatically omits to mention that the 1977 law report of *R v Home Secretary ex parte Mark Hosenball* is a reminder of the shameful performance of the most recent Labour Government in this area.

Rabinder Singh maps out a programme (short-term and long-term) for the reform of discrimination law, so that the existing, inadequate strands are bound together to form a powerful principle of equality, requiring that people are judged on their merits, thus promoting justice and efficiency by helping the best person to be appointed to the job. Wisely, he says nothing about the illegality of all-women shortlists for selecting parliamentary candidates for a political party.

In his essay on legal aid and justice, Roger Smith rightly criticises the current strategic plan of the Lord Chancellor's Department for treating "the efficient and effective administration of justice at an affordable cost" as the objective to be achieved. Cost is certainly a significant consideration, but it is a means to the more important, and inspiring, goal of "the achievement of social justice".

Law Reform For All does not provide a detailed study of complex matters of policy, or give an objective assessment of the mixed performance of previous Labour lawyers. But it identifies, with clarity and force, the substance of what a Labour government needs to do in order to promote justice — legal as well as social. It defines the basic criteria by which the performance of the Lord Chancellor and of the law officers in the next Labour administration will be judged.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

Playing at the Bar

A NEW radio sit-com called *Chambers* is being recorded by the BBC. It chronicles the adventures of John Fuller-Carp, a head of chambers, who is played by the comedian John Bird.

The series was written by Clive Coleman, a barrister and school of law lecturer. He says: "I wanted to get under the skin of the Bar because it is a world of its own." Tickets to the recording of *Chambers* in Broadcasting House are now available. It will be broadcast this spring.

Poaching game

KEVIN MAXWELL'S lawyers, Peters & Peters, have scored another coup against their old adversary by hiring Peter Binning, a Serious Fraud Office lawyer.

Mr Binning did not work on the Maxwell case "and I accepted the job before the Maxwell verdicts were announced", he said. He likes to think of himself as a game-keeper turned poacher.

OUTS



Getting married: artists Ian Hughes and Lucy Ross

"Though I am not sure that it isn't the other way around. Some people see the SFO as the poacher and the defence solicitors as the gamekeepers," he said.

Valentine hope

A VISIT to an exhibition at the law firm Collyer-Bristow's art gallery may offer the perfect Valentine's Day opportunity. A recent exhibition there featured the works of two Scottish artists, Ian Hughes and Lucy Ross. They had never met before but they have just announced they

intend to marry. The new exhibition takes dance as its theme, and will be opened tomorrow by Viviana Durante, the principal ballerina with the Royal Ballet.

● RALPH PICKEN, banking lawyer and bon viveur, is relishing taking over as managing partner at the London firm Trowers & Hamlin on Thursday. "I expect," he says, "to bring a relaxed approach to the role, alleviating the rigours of the job through the dogged pursuit of fine wines, excellent food, contemporary art and exotic travel."

Age-old problem

THE LIFE of Sir Thomas More is being celebrated on Thursday with a lecture by Professor Simon Lee. The lecture, at the Old Hall in Lincoln's Inn at 6pm, marks the 500th anniversary of More's admission to the Inn as an 18-year-old. Given the problems he faces with his divorce reform proposals, it may not have escaped the current Lord Chancellor's attention that More landed in hot water over divorce.

Under fire

MARTIN MEARS, the Law Society president, is launching an inquiry into the circulation of an article by *The Mail* on Sunday detailing his domestic circumstances. Mears publicly attacked the head of public relations, Sue Stapley, for including the article among a routine circulation of press cuttings — and then came under fire from council members for doing so. The incident is the latest in hostilities at Chancery Lane: staff say things have never been more difficult.

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Frances Gibb asks if attitudes towards women in the law are changing

The quiet battle of numbers rages on

A woman has just become head of one of the best-known chambers at the Bar. The election of Laura Cox, QC, 44, as head of the 40-strong leading civil liberties set, Cloisters, is still unusual enough to prompt comment: the number of women who have reached the top of what was once an almost all-male preserve is rising. But the proportions remain starkly disparate: Ms Cox is one of 57 women Queen's Counsel of a total 891 QCs; and one of a handful of women heads of chambers. And women, while now accounting for nearly half the Bar's new entrants, are still only 1,900 of 8,500 practising barristers.

Her election to succeed David Turner-Samuels, QC,

who founded the set in 1954 with John Platts-Mills, QC, is therefore significant and timely. Ms Cox, who is also the 1996 chairman of the Bar's sex discrimination committee, was closely involved with work on the Bar's equality code which chambers must now implement.

"So much has been done in the past five years," she says. "The Bar is really getting its house in order — the equality



Laura Cox: "The equality code is about educating people"

code brings it into line with the best practice in much of industry."

Now, she argues, the issue is how to put it into effect without making people fearful that

they are becoming victims of arch political correctness. "It's about educating people to be more aware. It's nothing more radical than requiring people to be sensitive in the way they

deal with their professional colleagues."

Ms Cox herself has not suffered discrimination. She has combined a thriving practice in employment, discrimination and professional negligence work with bringing up three boys (15, 12 and two) but pays full credit to her husband who gave up his career as a horticultural scientist to stay at home and look after the children. Nonetheless, women do face obstacles and fail to progress as they might, she says.

The problems will be aired at a conference in April for lawyers, managing partners, heads of chambers, clerks and personnel managers. The occasion — where speakers will include Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, and Chris Booth, QC — promises to be lively. The first conference of its kind, last year, was the scene for allegations of sexual harassment which set in train events leading to Mr Mears's election. Margaret McCabe, the barrister whose idea it was, says: "It was hugely successful, packed out. Last year was really about raising awareness — for many lawyers, it was the first time they'd really compared notes and found they faced the same problems."

"This time we are looking at the practical problems, how to change attitudes. As the title suggests, there needs to be a whole changing culture if women lawyers are to achieve their potential."

CHANGING THE CULTURE: SATURDAY APRIL 20

A conference organised by the Bar and the Law Society and sponsored by *The Times* will take place on April 20. Speakers include Lord Justice Otton, Mr Justice Sedley, Mrs Justice Arden, Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman

of the Equal Opportunities Commission and Lady Howe. Registration before Feb 29: £129.25 (inclusive of VAT). After Feb 29: £164.50; students and trainees: £58.75. Details: Blair Communications (0171-722 9731).

Slow progress in America

MEN and women are entering the law in equal numbers. But a report just published by the American Bar Association shows that in America, as in Britain, women remain unequal when it comes to promotion, pay and opportunities. In 1995 only 12.9 per cent of partners in the top American law firms were women. In New York a woman lawyer's chance of becoming a partner has fallen from 15 per cent in 1981 to 5 per cent in 1995. Over the same period, men's rate of promotion fell only 4 points from 21 per cent to 17 per cent.

Laurel Bellows, a lawyer based in Chicago who chaired the ABA's commission on the status of women lawyers, says she had expected to find that there had been steady progress. Instead, the commission found that "neither the sheer number of female

law school graduates, nor the mere passage of time, nor even the elevation of individual women to positions of prominence has dramatically enhanced opportunities for women as partners, law professors or judges."

The status of women has changed little since America's First Lady, Hillary Clinton, delivered the commission's last report seven years ago. "Firms can no longer say there are not enough women about. Law firms have the ability to select women for promotion but have made the decision not to do so," Ms Bellows says. The report identified only one area where the rates of promotion reflected the make-up of the available pool of lawyers — more than 31 per cent of President Clinton's judicial appointments at federal level have been women. Women were also, on average, still

paid less. Research in Colorado found that women who had one to three years' experience earned US\$7,000 less than male counterparts, even though their experience and fee-earning capabilities were the same.

The commission found that the legal workplace was rife with attitudes and actions that devalued women by excluding them from many avenues of career advancement, restricting their access to key clients, questioning their commitment if they wanted to have families and stigmatising their requests for flexible work schedules.

The commission was happy to debunk at least one myth — that women lawyers are quitting the practice of law in droves. "This myth fuels the false stereotype that women are less committed to their careers. But

there is only a 1 to 2 per cent difference between men and women exiting the profession," Ms Bellows says.

There is some good news, however. More women are being promoted to the position of General Counsel within American companies — their numbers rose by 20 per cent to 528 in 1995.

But, Ms Bellows says, women lawyers must learn to fight their own corner. "They still suffer from a lack of expectation. They are not really, in formed about the barriers in the profession and they may not always realise that their failure to go forward is the result of hitting these barriers." Women, she says, have the ability and numbers to demand change, "but they are not yet vocal enough".

JO CARR

Big fish get the boardroom deals

Mergers and acquisitions are back in favour. But City credibility is all in the scramble to clinch the work

Last Tuesday evening Dan Mace, of Lovell White Durrant, partied in the City along with the other advisers to the successful Granada bid. On Wednesday he attended his clients, AGM, to enjoy the spoils of victory. For the Lovells team, and its opposite numbers at Slaughter & May, who had provided advice to the bankers, it was an excellent, but demanding, start to the year.

"We'd been involved in the bid since the end of November and there were plenty of occasions when we worked through the night," Mr Mace says. "We normally met the clients a couple of times a week and it was essential that everyone should be available all the time."

The Granada takeover of Forte has been the most contentious deal for some time, and it may signal the return of the successful hostile bid. In any case, it clearly underlines the point that mergers and acquisitions work is back on the agenda of City law firms in a major way.

This had already been suggested by the figures in this month's *Acquisitions Monthly*. These pointed out that 1995 was a bumper year for legal fees. Philip Healey, editor of the magazine, said that there were no obvious factors to suggest that the good times would not continue, and the Forte takeover bears that out.

In tense City battles clients look, above all, for cost-iron security from their legal advisers and nothing breeds confidence like involvement in a high-profile transaction. Lovells can be assured that others will follow Granada's lead in making use of its services.

As the annual rankings reveal, however, it is the usual "gang of four" (Freshfields, Slaughter & May, Linklaters & Paines & Clifford) which dominate the top end of the mergers and acquisitions market.

What is more interesting is to see newer faces trying to break into this lucrative mar-



Dan Mace: took part in the Forte takeover

ket. Creeping in at the bottom of the premier league is Olswang which, while best known for its media and information technology work, is now becoming a force in corporate finance.

Simon Olswang says: "We have been working hard at this field. What clients want is 100 per cent reliable advice."

TOP 20

Top 20 legal advisers to companies in UK public takeovers in 1995:

1. Slaughter & May
2. Freshfields
3. Linklaters & Paines
4. Clifford Chance
5. Theodore Goddard
6. Norton Rose
7. Herbert Smith
8. Allen & Overy
9. Denton Hall
10. Simmons & Simmons
11. Ashurst Morris Crisp
12. Travers Smith
13. Macfarlanes
14. Berwin Leighton
15. Frere Cholmeley Bischoff
16. Walker Morris
17. McCann Fitzgerald
18. Lovell White Durrant
19. Olswang
20. Nabarro Nathanson

Source: Acquisitions Monthly

combined with commercial understanding."

The fact that Olswang is now enjoying success in advising both corporate clients and financial institutions bears out the benefits of having experience in both capacities. According to Barbara Stephenson of Norton Rose (which also enjoyed a good year in 1995), it is important to understand the issues from both ends. It is also critical to be well regarded by the banks, since they are often crucial in influencing which lawyers are used. A company's normal legal advisers may be overlooked if they lack City credibility. Ms Stephenson says: "After some of the things which happened in the great boom of the Eighties, everyone is very concerned that there should be no mistakes. That's why an established reputation for reliability is paramount."

John Clark, of Theodore Goddard, acknowledges, with some frustration, that clients often like to "play safe with the big names". His firm made good progress last year in the mergers and acquisitions field, but has not yet broken into the elite group. "I'm confident my team could match the skills of the top firms, but the big ticket jobs still tend to go to them," he says. Having been involved in the TSB-Lloyds merger, however, Mr Clark and his team are starting to get a feel for what it might be like at the top.

It can be risky, however, pitching for the pinnacle. Although just half a dozen lawyers may be working continuously on a big deal, there may be occasions when up to 25 are required to pitch in over a weekend. To have that kind of strength on tap demands that a constant flow of work is coming through. And not everyone wants to take that risk.

As last week showed, however, takeover work is the biggest game in town. To win you need the nerve of a poker player.

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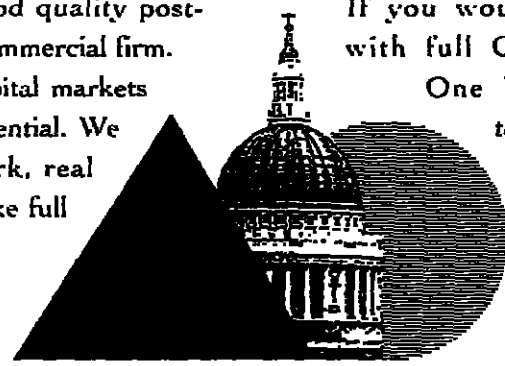
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INTERVIEW

Singing the Valley Song
in the new South Africa: Athol Fugard talks about his new play



POP

It's fun to be in the country — at least when the Mavericks give it their unique stamp

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Gidon Kremer is brilliant and sloppy in equal measures in the Brahms Violin Concerto



MUSIC 2

Oliver Knussen supervises a showcase for the music of promising young composers

Apartheid is dead — what happens now? Heather Neill talks to a man with more answers than most

Fugard returns to face the new South African

Not long ago, South African writers had a clear objective: to protest against apartheid. "We fuelled our creativity with abhorrence," says the most famous of them, Athol Fugard. "It provided a powerful energy. Now we have to find a new motor to drive us."

Fugard seems to have faced the challenge successfully in *Valley Song*, a play he describes as "a transitional piece" which reflects the new political mood in his beloved homeland. *Valley Song* is a two-hander, but with three characters. Besides directing the piece, Fugard plays both the Afrikaner Author, closely modelled on himself, and Beks, a poor Coloured (mixed race) tenant farmer. Beks's only companion is his adored teenage granddaughter, Veronica, a talented singer, who wants to escape to the city in search of fame and fortune.

different races could mix freely. Fugard says that the audiences for *Valley Song* were made up more or less equally of blacks and whites. "It is the one established theatrical venue in Johannesburg patronised by Soweto," he says. But, even allowing for the respect accorded him as a battle-hardened anti-apartheid campaigner, wasn't he courting trouble in daring to impersonate a poor Coloured farmer?

"I felt compelled to go out there and take it on the chin"

Fugard has been surprised, he says, by the almost complete absence of adverse criticism, especially in America. "I expected to be shot down in flames." In fact, the young black girl and the old white man together on the stage make a family, and that had a tremendously positive effect in the United States.

Choosing to play Beks was no whim. "For about 40 years I have been trying to do this, hoping that people will see beyond skin colour to the essential humanity of another," he says. "In moving from the white Author to the Coloured man, with just a woollen cap and a change of posture to make the difference, I am taking that challenge a step further."

Besides, he believes he has much in common with Beks. "We are two sides of the same coin. I am a white South African, with all the privileges that implies; he is poor. But as a man he is the person I would have liked to be, not for his poverty, but his dignity and values." Cultivating the land is

a favourite metaphor for Fugard as a writer. "His with his handful of seeds is Athol Fugard with his handful of words." His love for the landscape of South Africa is lyrically expressed in *Valley Song*.

Beks is based on a real person, now 78 and ailing, living in the remote village in the Karoo, the semi-desert a day's drive from Johannesburg, where Fugard lives. The house the Author buys and Beks fears he will have to leave is Fugard's house.

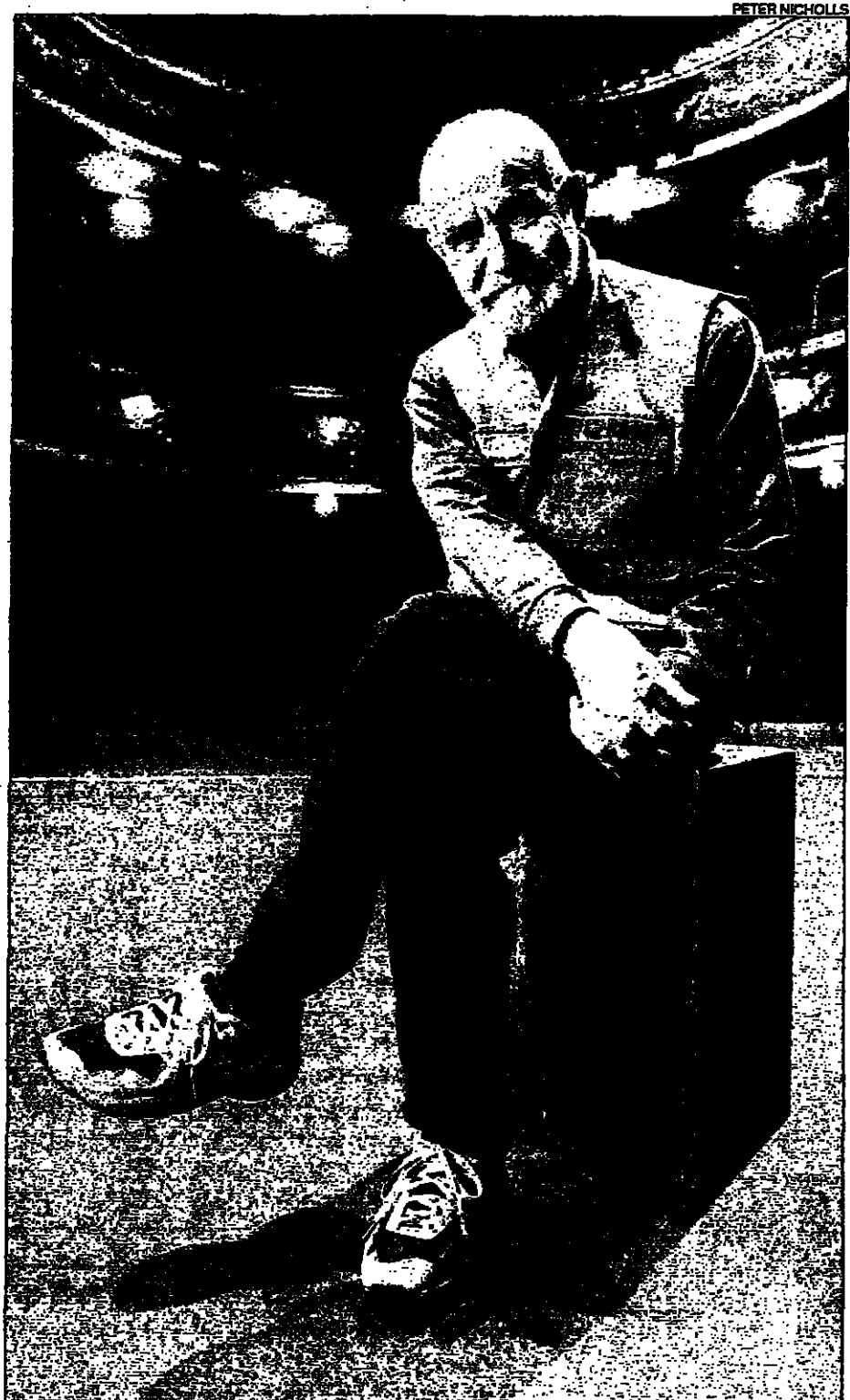
"The Author is taken directly from my life," Fugard says. "I felt compelled in the premiere production to go out there and take it on the chin myself." Veronica, too, has a real-life counterpart (although unrelated to the Beks character). She is now in Cape Town trying to realise her dream and become a singer.

But however specific the detail, the story — of ambitious youth thwarted by possessive, emotionally dependent age — is an archetypal one. Even this echoes of Fugard's past. "It is partly written out of my experience of early manhood. My father was a cripple, dependent. I knew survival in my own right depended on my leaving."

His subsequent career led to a string of famous plays, many of which, including *Boesman and Lena* and *Sin and Sin* have been performed at the Royal Court. Fugard has been a hero to liberal British audiences for a couple of generations. This week he has enjoyed a sense of homecoming in wintry London and is realising an ambition to act on the Court stage, having often directed his work there. Despite the chill, he jogs daily and is energetically re-rehearsing his first (South African) Veronica. Esmeralda Bihl is a 24-year-old actress and singer who had to make much the same commitment to her career as the character she plays.

Fugard is eager, warm, relishing a good talk about South Africa, delighted to know that I had been there recently. *Valley Song's* underlying theme is, of course, the emergence of the new, youthful, black state into an uncertain future. Fugard remains unsentimentally optimistic.

"For the majority the new South Africa looks and feels like the old one: squatter camps, unemployment, crime and violence are still there," he says. "Yet I am amazed at how complete the change has been in terms of political structures. On election day — voting took all day; there were three-mile queues — there was a sense of liberation, for whites included: they posted their guilt into the ballot box."



Fugard wrote, directed, and plays two parts — one of them a Coloured man — in *Valley Song*

Beks cannot live without his land, his *akkers*. Fugard feels a similar pull to "acres of white paper". Sitting on the Royal Court stage where he has spent the morning as actor and director, he refers to Fugard the writer in the third person. "He needs a couple of hours a day. I can't give him that during rehearsals, but when I'm free during the day... Then, he will carefully set out paper, pencil and Waterman's pen and dig deep into the South African earth once again."

Valley Song opens at the Royal Court, Sloane Square, London SW1 (0171-730 1745) tomorrow

Passion hidden under the frolics

POP

The Mavericks
UEA, Norwich

THE Mavericks are fun. It is as simple as that. Whether they are singing ballads for the broken-hearted, or cranking out rock standards, there is an infectious good humour about the band. They chat happily to the audience, fool around in the encores (of which there are four) by swapping instruments, and give the impression they are loving every moment.

Not that they have much to complain about. Their latest album, *Music For All Occasions*, has been lavished with the praise that earned its predecessor, *What A Crying Shame*, a platinum disc and won two awards from the Academy of Country Music.

This success could, of course, be a sign that they have merely succumbed to the conservatism of the country establishment. They have, after all, forsaken their native Miami for Nashville. And there is no escaping their penchant for the sweet sounds of the Fifties and Sixties. There are, too, the cover versions: *Guantanamera*, *Jambalaya*. The Mavericks could be just another exercise in easy listening nonsense — country music's Mike Flowers, less mavericks and more mimics.

They could be, but they are not the fun is anything but mindless. Raul Malo, the band's singer and songwriter, sees to that. With his clothes and slicked-back hair, he resembles an American golf pro, but his singing tells another story. His voice has the pleading tones of the late Roy Orbison: the sound of someone who expects heartbreak and lives with regret.

Mallo depends on the self-effacing support of the other Mavericks: Robert Reynolds (bass), Nick Kane (guitar) and Paul Deakin (drums), with the additional help of Jerry Dale McFadden on keyboards. When he sings *Make The World Go Away*, Mallo seems to discover hidden passions in the simple sentiments. During an extraordinary rendering of *Blue Moon*, he reinvents the song. When he stops, he chuckles: he's having fun too.

JOHN STREET

Riot of sound

DREADZONE's London show was originally scheduled to take place last December but was cancelled in the wake of the Brixton riot. In the six weeks in between, the band have had a hit single with *Little Britain*, and so the night's atmosphere was charged with as much of a party spirit as it had been the festive season.

The core of Dreadzone originally played together in Big Audio Dynamite, so it is not surprising that the two bands share the same kind of dub-beat pop roots. This time round, bassist Leo Williams has stepped up to frontman, while Greg Roberts continues to play drums and Tim Bran controls the beat systems.

Dressed in a long white duster-style coat with his bass slung and his super-long dreadlocks trailing out behind him, Williams looked like the perfect modern outlaw. He whirled around the stage, urging the crowd to dance along with him, and occasionally shared the microphone with Earl Sixteen, one of the guest vocalists on last year's *Second Light* album.

Dreadzone
Fridge, Brixton

The band's dub-heavy sound lent itself to everything from the spaghetti western of the Morrison-sampled *The Good The Bad and The Ugly* to the Irish shammy *Captain Dread* to the defiantly straightforward anthem *Zion Youth*. When they played *Little Britain* it got the biggest cheer of the night, maybe not just because it is their hit single but also because it was a microcosm of their overall sound.

The band encored with the hard-edged *Fight The Power*, which was accompanied by footage of the chaos in Brixton last December and the 1992 American race riots. With the audience temperature below freezing, it was way too cool for a follow-up riot but, when the closing strains of *The Warning* came echoing out of the Fridge door, it served as a reminder that warmer, more volatile times lie ahead.

ANN SCANLON

CONCERTS: New talent unearthed in Explorations 96; Beethoven quest continues; Kremer goes his own way

In Explorations 96 on Thursday evening, the London Sinfonietta presented another showcase of works by young composers, all receiving their world, British or London premieres. As on previous occasions, Oliver Knussen's quality control proved reliable.

Michael Gandolfi's programme note for *Design School* discussed the inspiration of the lithographs of M.C. Escher. Gandolfi admitted he did not find them greatly expressive, and his own composition was similarly motivated more by design principles than anything else. Not too promising, it seemed, and indeed the opening was somewhat soulless. But the second movement contained an engaging passage of interlocking woodwinds and a prowling figure that seemed to be a representation of Escher's reptiles. But no, this was supposed to be the third movement, which to me appeared far more cerebral. The fourth movement was driven by powerful motor rhythms.

Having entirely failed to comprehend Gandolfi's illustrated note, with its references to Fibonacci series, "electron journeys" and alligators, I approached Richard Causton's *The Persistence of Memory* with more optimism. His down-to-earth but evocative note spoke of a strange personal experience undergone in India.

His deployment of conflicting tempos and rhythms made perfect sense in this context, with the notion of suspended time skilfully conveyed. The work's opening, with its haunting sonorities, also seized the attention. Causton, a 24-year-old British composer, is a name to watch.

There were imaginative sonorities, too, in *Of Tears & Saints*, by the Romanian-born Liviu Minu. This piece

Stars are born

LS/Knussen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

had an arresting section of dense textures, with bells, tinkling celeste and various layers of strings and wind, while another section featured jagged chords against beating drums.

Karen Markham, who contributed a memorable piece called *Whirligig* at a previous Sinfonietta presentation, pursued the rotation theme once again, to excellent effect. In *The Wheel Has Turned*, this time the oscillation was less hectic, but it provided a unifying motif principle that complemented the underlying theme of a spiritual quest.

The American composer Ron Ford, in *Inferno*, I, 32, offered the one piece I would not choose to hear again. Whether or not its deafening thracks on drums (fitted with plywood inlays) were intended to be alienating, what followed was distinctly unappealing. One group consisted of viola (Paul Silverthorne), bandoneon (an Argentine accordion played by Per Arne Glorvigen) and soprano (Susan Narucki).

The soprano's words were entirely inaudible, because a second group, a 13-piece ensemble, was made to punctuate them loudly with offbeat jabbing dissonances. The third group was the percussionist with his plywood and mallets.

Inferno, I, 32 was tedious, rebarbative and incomprehensible. However, all praise to the Sinfonietta and its conductors, Knussen and Stefan Asbury.

Barry Millington

CALL him quirky, call him inspired: the Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer is never boring. He has twice the repertoire of most top fiddlers, which is admirable. But when he returns to one of the prize blooms in the violinist's garden, you do sometimes wonder if he has spent too long hacking through the wild grass.

Thus it was with a performance of the Brahms Concerto on Saturday that was brilliant and sloppy in roughly equal proportions. Tuning was often far from sweet: the tone was sometimes scratchy; the phrasing jerky and anti-romantic. As for the cadenza, Kremer conjured up a bizarre effort that featured a swelling and falling trumpet roll that seemed more appropriate to the villain's entrance in a Victorian melodrama.

Yet he passed the one essential test of performance: he held the attention. His performance was urgent, as tightly

strung as an archer's bow, and utterly original. That's worth a lot. If you just want the notes perfectly played, any number of teenage virtuosos can oblige.

Sticking close to Kremer in maverick mood cannot be easy, but Christoph von Dohnányi and the Philharmonia made a gallant fist of it (with some especially lustrous oboe-playing from John Anderson). That was no surprise: earlier the orchestra and its principal guest conductor had given a performance of Schumann's Second Symphony that pulsated with energy and was cogent from first note to last.

Dohnányi, the maestro of Cleveland, has a reputation for unflinching seriousness, and there was certainly nothing trivial about his reading of Schumann's most Beethoven-like — and in some ways most tragic — symphony. A sense of epic struggle was present from the outset, and in the sublime slow movement this was transfigured into intense anguish.

The result, however, was the opposite of dour. Dohnányi controlled the orchestral texture superbly, and was able to push the scherzo and finale along at speed with no loss of clarity or tension.

The Schumann compensated for a brave but uncomfortable start to the concert. A performance of Mahler's string-orchestra transcription of Beethoven's String Quartet, Op 95, only confirmed how right Beethoven was to conceive this work for four players in the first place.

RICHARD MORRISON

Frantic to be heard

Emerson Quartet
Queen Elizabeth Hall

With Friday's and Sunday's concerts behind it, the Emerson String Quartet is now halfway through its Beethoven cycle at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. In this chronological survey of the music, all six of the early Op 18 set and the three middle-period Razumovsky (Op 59) have now been explored and, from tonight, the players journey on towards the works of Beethoven's late period.

So far the Emersons have confirmed their reputation for gripping, illuminating performances, and they have attracted almost-full houses on the South Bank — a testimony to the grip of the music too, for this month has already seen a Beethoven series in London by the Lindsey Quartet.

Although the London group is dedicated to extending the repertoire with frequent commissions, it has been playing the Beethoven quartets almost since its formation 20 years ago.

No doubt the players adjust their interpretations according to venue, but the Queen Elizabeth Hall — by any standards a large hall for such intimate, conversational music — does not seem best suited to their style.

Perhaps the aggressive, upfront and undeniably exciting approach they displayed here was designed to compensate those at the back, but nearer the platform one missed the sheer beauty of tone for which the Emersons are renowned.

There is, of course, no single way of approaching this body of work, one of the greatest musical expressions of the human spirit. And although

there is nothing wrong with underlining the radicality of pieces that were startling in their day, some of the Emersons' fast movements sounded fraught and fragmented.

One hesitates to describe as superficial anything so thoughtful, serious-minded musicians do, but while admiring the players' unanimity of attack — they listen intently to each other — it was hard to find the longer musical arguments of the outer movements really involving. That said, the whirling finale to Op 59 No 3 which brought Sunday's concert to a close was exhilarating.

It is the slow movements that will linger in the memory. Those in the Op 18 set took on a special nobility, with playing of great warmth underlining the hymn-like simplicity of the Adagio in No 2 and the shadowy B-flat minor episode in the second movement of No 6. The Emersons dug deep into the emotions of Op 59 No 2 to give a performance of sublime intensity.

Although Beethoven's world was shattered by the onset of his deafness during the few years that separate Op 18 and Op 59, there is humour in all these works. The Emersons were playful in the variations of Op 18 No 5, and caught the jauntiness of the "Theme Russe" in the second Razumovsky quartet.

The way in which they evoked the discreet Russianness of the third Razumovsky, with David Finckel's plucked cello suggesting a balalaika, was entertaining and only natural from a quartet that plays with such obvious and engaging enjoyment.

JOHN ALLISON

Imperfect, but at least he's different

Philharmonia/Dohnányi
Festival Hall

CALL him quirky, call him inspired: the Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer is never boring. He has twice the repertoire of most top fiddlers, which is admirable. But when he returns to one of the prize blooms in the violinist's garden, you do sometimes wonder if he has spent too long hacking through the wild grass.

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WIN VIRGIN FLIGHTS — SEE PAGE 38

■ VISUAL ART 1

Money is the root of all evil? That is the message of Bill Woodrow's Tate exhibition



■ VISUAL ART 2

...and there is scarcely more comfort in the abrasive American art on show at the Saatchi Gallery

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

From wax to bronze: Maggi Hambling explains the method behind her new sculptures

■ VISUAL ART 4

Something strange on the mantelpiece: Jo Stockham's memory figures come to the Adam Gallery

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on Bill Woodrow's sardonic sculptures at the Tate and young Americans at the Saatchi

Bronze rebuke to our material age

Invited to fill the awesome vastness of the Duveen Galleries at the Tate, Bill Woodrow might easily have felt daunted. Stretching like a spine through the centre of the building, these gaunt and lofty neo-classical spaces could diminish the work displayed there. But Woodrow takes on the challenge with gusto. Many of his recent bronzes are grand and flamboyant enough to demand ample surroundings. They look like monuments waiting for permanent public locations, and the Duveen's immensity provides them with an ideal showcase.

To anyone familiar with Woodrow's earlier work, these titans may seem shocking. After all, he made his reputation in the early 1980s by deftly manipulating discarded objects, scavenged from skips and dumps. Woodrow's name became synonymous with battered twin-tubs, ironing boards and car doors, presented in all their rusty rawness. Although juxtaposed with invented forms, made by Woodrow from metal torn out of the found objects, they still reeked of dereliction and urban decay.

At first glance, the work at the Tate amounts to a volte-face. Bronze and gold leaf proliferate throughout the show, suggesting that Woodrow has reneged on his earlier position and succumbed to the most traditional — and expensive — of sculptural materials. Are we witnessing, then, the decline of a successful middle-aged artist, indulging in luxurious allure and

betraying his former toughness? Little time is needed to scotch such suspicions. Soon after we enter the Tate, a sculpture called *Moneyhead* proves that Woodrow has not lost his subversive edge. Carved from stone in a rough yet conventional way, the head lies on the floor like a fragment from an antique statue. But the man's imperious features are studded with outsize bronze coins, each one lodged like half-embedded shrapnel in his flesh. He appears to have been killed by money, and sets the tone for an exhibition riddled with scathing references to a civilisation destroyed by the insane pursuit of material gain.

Woodrow has long been obsessed by the *Ship of Fools*, a mythical vessel cluttered with demented travellers consumed by greed. A couple of the most imposing exhibits are supposed to have been dredged from the *Ship's* wreckage, and they are filled with a sense of mournful futility. One, a twisted anchor, terminates in prongs piercing open books. The other, a life-size cannon, mimics the form taken by monuments celebrating military prowess and imperial gain.

But Woodrow arouses expectations only to flout them. The cannon turns out to be mounted on a prison door, and the contorted figure of an accordion player seems to lie underneath. Far from merely trumpeting martial might, the cannon becomes a symbol of oppression and confinement.

Casting such a work in bronze takes on an ironic meaning. And the concentration on expensive materials seems even more paradoxical when we approach the most elaborate sculpture on view: *In Awe of the Pawnbroker*. Stretching down the last gallery, and joined to a steel chain that ends up tied around a thick Duveen column, five gold-coloured bronze rings nestle on tasselled cushions. They are big enough to serve as plinths for the tableaux they support. The pawnbroker's triple orbs can be linked on each plinth, and Woodrow uses them to tell a story about the role played by pawnshops through history.

The broker himself is a spindly figure, his body made up of forks and spoons. He struggles to retain his balance on a rolling drum studded with coins. But the banner undulating from a staff clasped in his right hand swirls with energy, and his other hand holds up his gleaming orbs with perverse pride.

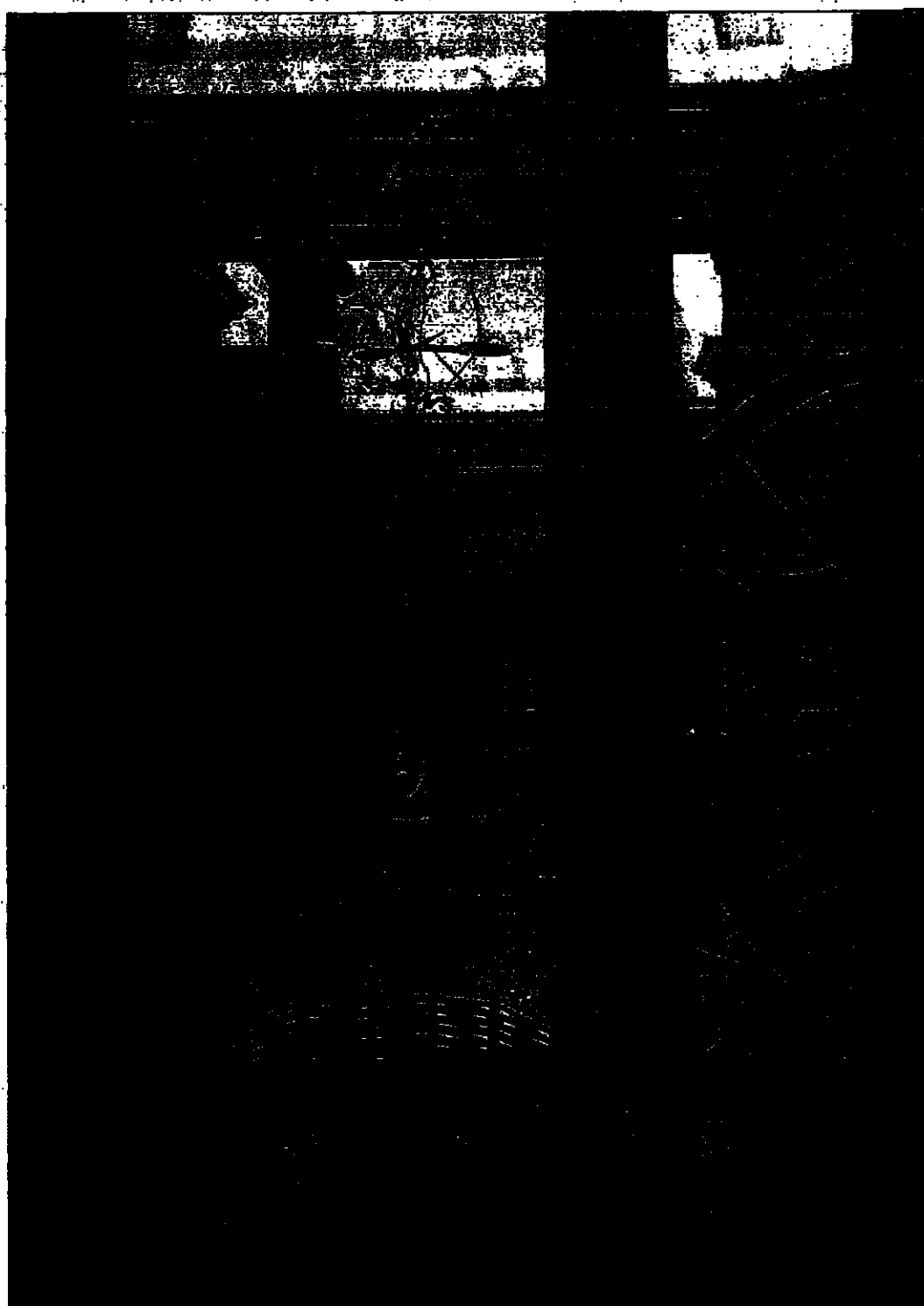
Debt-ridden and in thrall to the dubious power of money-lenders, the world satirised by Woodrow seems scarcely capable of tottering to the century's end. This is a mordant and, at times, openly apocalyptic show, using its references to the grandiloquent age of monumental sculpture only in order to pinpoint bankruptcy and moral negation.

Bronze is deployed as a means of intensifying the mood of universal absurdity, nowhere more crazily than in the tower installed at the exhibition's centre. Woodrow's feeling for the delirium of modern life reaches its apogee in this trussed and glinting folly. Exploding at its apex in a tangle of sliced ropes and animal mutation, this rebarbative new sculpture offers, in its terse two-word title, a snub to anyone in search of a reason for the madness: *God Knows*.

Scant comfort can be found at the Saatchi Gallery, where four young American artists are given plenty of space to assert themselves. Even so, visitors could easily miss Gregory Green's exhibit in the first room. Still dominated by John Frankland's lustrous polythene lift, installed there last year, this foyer-like space now contains a nondescript suitcase as well.

It stands next to one of the lift doors, as if left there by accident. But Green calls this deceptively mundane *Suitcase Room*, and further into the exhibition he shows us what it might contain.

We are invited, via a sequence of



Woodrow's show refers to a grandiloquent age only to pinpoint bankruptcy and moral negation

beckoning signs, to penetrate a storage area never normally on public view. Here, Green presents us with a room where suitcases play only a small part in a chaos of packing-cases, straw, power-tools, telephones, stained towels, clocks and other, less readily identifiable appliances. Despite the disorder, the claustrophobic chamber testifies to an intense level of activity.

And as we pick our way gingerly through the debris, the overall purpose becomes clear. A book of biblical proportions lies open, its pages carved out to make space for a wired mechanism within. Other, equally ominous

components are detectable on work benches nearby. Lit by torches dangling from the wall, and often half-buried by an accumulation of assorted equipment, these sinister devices clearly have a purpose. Green cleverly re-creates the peculiar mixture of messiness and cold precision in this deserted bomb kitchen.

The terrorists themselves are nowhere to be seen, but their obsessive tenacity is disclosed wherever we look. Have they been disturbed by an advance warning and decided to run? Or are they out on a job, armed with one of the instruments assembled in this chill-

ing interior? Green does not explain; but by calling his intricately composed installation *Work Station 5 (London)*, he implies that it belongs to an international network of similarly makeshift factories.

In another room, empty save for a spotlit object in the middle of the floor, he also ensures that we do not underestimate the destructive potential involved. The object's title, *Nuclear Device*, is not intended as a joke. It indicates, with terrifying simplicity, that a bomb capable of unleashing measureless annihilation looks like a plastic globe attached to a tangle of wires.

Anyone with access to plutonium might, apparently, learn how to construct such an obscene instrument.

That is why Green's work, also on view in a one-man show at the Cabinet Gallery in Coldharbour Lane, is so unnerving. His bombs and remote-controlled incendiary devices all seem to have been made from modest resources, thereby underlining the threat posed by the ever-increasing ease of their manufacture.

The implications of Green's meticulous, matter-of-fact art overshadow everything else in the Saatchi show. He makes Charles Long, fascinated by the eccentric shapes of popcorn, thrown-away plastic and half-eaten rolls, seem playful to a fault. But Sean Landers conveys a more obsessive, troubled vision. Sometimes he confines himself to long, rambling lines of confessional writing, filling large canvases with frustrated, laconic

The world satirised by Woodrow is in thrall to money-lenders

observations about daily existence. Elsewhere he combines words with painted images of an empty sea, or shows himself on video stripping and posing indolently as a narcissistic, updated version of a High Renaissance or Baroque sculpture.

Ultimately, though, Landers appears wayward when set beside Janine Antoni's fiercely focused sculpture. In a multipart work called *Gnaw*, she shows how boulder-like lumps of chocolate and lard served as the raw material for the production of, respectively, heart-shaped sweet packages and bright red lipstick. Antoni herself spent weeks gnawing away at the lumps, spitting out the pieces and preserving them.

Then the bitten-away cubes were shown on marble pallets, contrasting in their elemental roughness with the glossily packaged lipsticks displayed in mirrored showcases. The gulf between the desperate, nauseating urgency of the gnawing and the slickness of the cosmetic installation says a great deal about the difference between a woman's compulsive emotional needs and the bland, commercialised exploitation of feminine allure.

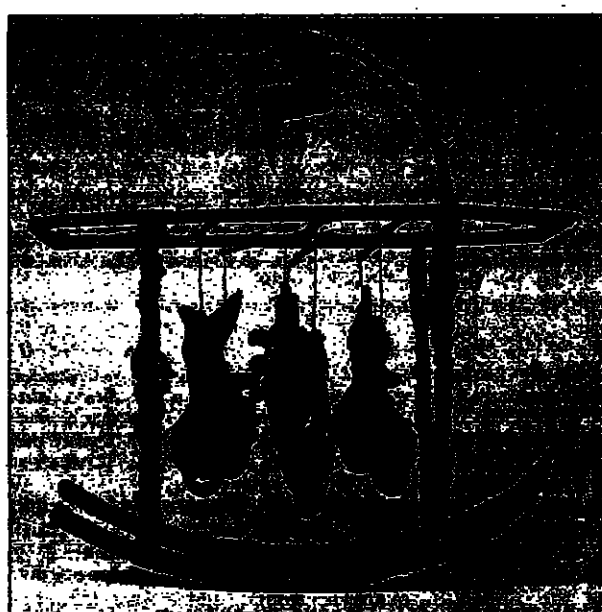
Bill Woodrow at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, SW1 (0171-887 8000) until April 28; Young Americans at the Saatchi Gallery, 98a Boundary Road, London, NW8 (0171-328 8299) until March 3; Gregory Green at the Cabinet Gallery, 8 Clifton Mansions, 429 Coldharbour Lane SW9 (0171-274 4252) until Feb 3



In *Work Station No 5 (London)* Gregory Green recreates the terrorist's peculiar mixture of messiness and cold precision

Laughing at death in 3-D

Maggi Hambling may have swapped paint for bronze, but her spirit remains the same



War Coffin (1994), part of Maggi Hambling's new show

Three years ago Maggi Hambling, an artist previously known for her powerfully expressive paintings, turned to sculpture for the first time. The images in her paintings, she felt, were becoming increasingly like objects in space; she was even using her hands to apply the paint. Her clay sculptures of 1993, with their vivid colours and rearing planes, seemed a natural development of her work in oils.

But drawing has always been central to Hambling's work, and it is from this that her first collection of bronzes springs. It was working in wax that first caught her imagination. "It has all the immediacy and directness of drawing," she says, "and to be able to work in three dimensions is very exciting."

Spreading sand on a table, she draws quickly and incisively with a finger, and fills the indented shape with molten wax. When it cools this image can be picked up, melded with other images, built up into more complicated forms and cast in bronze.

"Some of the sculptures in this show — such as *Portrait of My Father* — are like earlier drawings," Hambling says. "But now they are moving in space and, because I use the lost wax method of casting, each piece has the same uniqueness as a drawing. Everything is individual — a sort of experiment. Things just happen."

Perhaps it is this sense of chance — an impetuosity carried over from her painting — that gives energy to her new work. Only two casts have been made, so that an image can be used repeatedly, and these are of things which she came across by accident.

One is a piece of a burnt-out car engine which she found several years ago in a country

lane. To Hambling it looked like a head thrown back in laughter — "like a shape from one of my early laugh paintings," she says. The other is of a stone she stumbled across in a field — a stone which, to her imaginative eye, also resembles a head.

It is this idea of contingency, of a randomness caught for a moment within some sort of structure, which seems to lie at the heart of Hambling's work. "I wanted to explore the fragility of the balance between life and death," she says. "The idea that nothing is planned and permanent, that we are only passing through ... I don't suppose anyone can get to my age [she is in her 50s] without thinking about

death," she adds with characteristic pragmatism. Influenced by her recent trips to Egypt and Mexico, both countries in which an elaborate death culture has evolved, Hambling turns to the image of the coffin. The repeated patterns of her "heads" are interlinked by slender traceries — gaunt frameworks in which the bronze is left rough and unpatinated. Forms are suspended in space, swinging gently as the pieces rock to and fro on their slender struts.

Through her evocations of balance and suspension, Hambling opens up the idea of potentiality. Her coffins could equally be the fragile frameworks of something half

built as the corroding skeletons of the past. "These sculptures are not supposed to be pessimistic," she explains. "The coffins are like vehicles — chariots or boats perhaps — with air drifting through them. The dead people are not shut up, not trapped. I am open to any possibility, to ideas of immortality, of any sort of life after death."

Works such as her *Coffin Struck by Lightning*, in which the hair on the head stands up like a star in electrified spikes, or her *Coffin for Max Wall*, in which the coffin's inverted figure dangles suspended "as though dancing upside down for all eternity", both show this. Hambling brings a liveliness, an almost impish *jeu d'esprit*, to her work.

Influenced by seeing Wall, an old friend, playing *Waiting for Godot*, and by what she describes as the "jolliness" of a Mexican attitude to death, with its gaily painted *memento mori*, she brings a Beckettian humour to her theme. Two sculptures entitled *After Mexico* are of skulls with protruding tongues, seemingly caught in animated conversation. The ribbed edges of the bronze resonate lightly to the touch. Other pieces jangle and chime as they sway.

"It was chance again," Hambling says. "Modelling in wax, I didn't think about sound. But when cast in bronze, my sculptures seem to speak for themselves. Metal clinks against metal as they move and, just when you think they are about to stop talking, they start all over again."

RACHEL

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

Maggi Hambling: Sculpture in Bronze and New Monotypes at Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albermarle Street, London W1 (0171-629 5161), tomorrow to Mar 2

Jo Stockham has made a delicate arrangement over the fireplace in each of the front rooms of the tiny, domestic Adam Gallery. Outlines of people bowling, batting, dancing, pushing and sitting have been cut from newspapers and turned face to the wall on the end of thin wooden sticks. Another group made up of individual figures, actors in some long forgotten news story or narrative, is displayed facing the street, like a discreet advertisement for puppet theatre or toy museum. In the back room of the gallery, a small snapshot photograph showing a hand placed across a shoulder is reflected back into a mirror that radiates out from the corner. The mirror carries the outline of a hand, frosted or smeared like frozen breath. Other small photographs, too, have been altered. By greasing, rubbing and sanding the surface of these "ordinary" pictures, Stockham manages to turn all sorts of visual memories and records into fragile yet unprecious objects.

Adam Gallery, 62 Walcott Square, London SE11, (0171-582 1260) to Feb 4

Peter Doig's paintings are exciting enough when encountered for the first time, but an awareness of their history reveals how they have changed over time. Doig seems much less intent now on picturing a subject head-on. Instead, in his recent pictures of ski slopes and figures skiing, he creates a sense of freefall through space. Trees are sometimes red, built up almost pointillistically across the canvases: skies are thin veils of diffused pink, yellow and even blue. These

paintings are big enough for the artist as well as the viewer to lose himself in. There is a bracing, glowing, sporty quality to these paintings. They involve less layering of paint, less surface interference. After the backyards, front porches and sulphuric, swampy colonial strangeness of Doig's earlier work, the air has become sweeter now, as the virtuous Canadian artist struggles to release himself from the shackles of those early associations.

Victoria Miro Gallery, 21 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-734 5082) to March 8

Downstairs at the Anna Bornholt Gallery, Yvonne Hindle's paintings have the quality of human or animal hair, groomed and combed across the surface in a single sweep to sparkle in the light. Ana Padovani embroiders objects and gives them the seriously luxurious air of prayer cushions in some private Neo-Classical chapel. Upstairs, Gill Houghton shows a photograph with a pile of cut hair fallen to the floor; Paul Whittaker places a smoothly finished shelf high up on the wall, while Henry Rogers, the organiser, shows a painting stretched across both sides of two false walls, with a gap in between. Though there is no obvious connection between the work of the five artists, this mixed show, called *Relatives*, nevertheless manages to set up some interesting associations and relationships.

Anna Bornholt Gallery, 3-5 Weighhouse Street, London W1 (0171-499 6114) until February 16

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Miss E Reilly of Brighouse, West York; Mr C Lee of Littlehampton, West Sussex; Mr J De Barr of Winchester, Hants; Mr J Morley of Paignton, Devon; Mr A Madden of Weybridge, Surrey; Mrs J Weedon of Goring on Thames; Mrs P Millar of Battersea, London; Mrs B O'Sullivan of Colchester, Essex and Ms S Taylor of Port Agathis, Limerick.

40 35 44



THEATRE 1
A study in disintegration: the life of the pianist John Ogden is staged in *Virtuoso*



THEATRE 2
Eighty minutes of travestied Lorca is a bit much, even for the London Mime Festival

THE ARTS



CHOICE 1
Joseph Fiennes and Co recreate *Les Enfants du Paradis* on stage
VENUE: Opens tonight at the Barbican



CHOICE 2
Michael Nyman gives a concert performance of his new opera
VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

How a genius turned to discord

When Oliver Ford Davies played the vicar at the centre of David Hare's *Racing Demon*, the impression was of a thin, troubled man. But one of the signs of a major actor is a gift for physical transformation. Goliaths shrink into Davids. Aguecheeks expand into Bottoms or, as here, the Rev Espy becomes a stout, anguished pianist. Somehow Davies persuades you that his bunched, bumpy face actually fits those hunched, heavy shoulders and that, yes, the figure lumbering round the stage, his shaving-brush beard at 90 degrees to his chin, really is John Ogden.

William Humble's tale of Ogden's battle with madness gives Davies the chance to embody plenty of emotions, from rage to despair to meek, baffled resignation. The problem is a play whose attempts to dramatise both inner feeling and outside event, while bold, can seem awkward and overwrought. Moreover, those in search of penetrating analysis, resonant ideas, or dialogue that rises strongly to the emotional occasion are likely to feel rather sporadically rewarded.

The play opens with Ogden tentatively tinkling away on a hospital piano, then cut back to 1902, the year he won the Tchaikovsky Prize. Although he disconcerts his agent by preferring milk-bars to restaurants and comparing the Beatles to Mozart, all is triumphant activity. "There's never been a pianist who can sightread like John, it's incredible," says a composer in one of several lines that sound more informative than real.

But the pressures on him intensify. His wife pushes him to buy a posh London house, the composer nags at him for not practising his new concerto, an envious friend makes him feel guilty for charging expenses for a charity recital. Suddenly John Grillo, performing the last of these, trans-

THEATRE
Virtuoso
Wolsey, Ipswich

mutes into Ogden's hallucination of his own mad father. This preposterous figure stalks the set — a garish mix of purple, blue and orange surfaces — gleefully blowing a trombone and wreaking emotional ruin.

What finally turned Ogden into a violent, suicidal mess? Humble provides enough evidence — awful father, engulfing mother, accusing brother, who died young, his own overwrought feelings of responsibility and fear of failing others — to convince you he cannot simply have inherited a bad paternal gene. Yet not until he is erratically teaching music in Indiana does a shrink come out with "Are you scared of people rejecting you?" and get the slow, surprised answer "You may be right". Did it really take the professionals so long to reach this insight, and does Humble not see how banal it seems?

Another worry is that, although general ideas occasionally surface (is it better to be a tortured genius or a happy nonentity?), the play remains a feverish case study. Still another is that the ending is more upbeat than the facts of Ogden's premature end allow.

It is the principal members of Caroline Smith's somewhat uneven cast who mainly justify the evening: Diane Fletcher, who brings a redeeming humanity to the wife who chillingly remarks that she married a great pianist "and if he can't even play the piano, what's left?" and Ford Davies himself — a great, stricken ox blinking at the abattoir of his own mind.



Diane Fletcher and Oliver Ford Davies as callous wife and tortured genius in *Virtuoso*, William Humble's patchy story of the life of John Ogden

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Send off the clowns

House of Bernarda Alba
Purcell Room

SOMETIMES a cocky ragamuffin inside me has wanted to stick out his tongue at the solemn sufferings of Lorca's Castilian rustics and Granadine spinners. But never did I expect to see one of his tragedies performed by clowns.

The production comes to us, of course, courtesy of the London International Mime Festival. The company is Theatre Manjara, a group of Swedish female clowns directed by Nola Rae. They have sent me back to the original Lorca with heightened respect but this is a backhanded compliment. However much my ragamuffin may have wanted one of Bernarda's five unmarried daughters to shove a banana-skin in her path, it was only my longing to see a moment's successful rebellion. Eighty minutes of distortion is something else.

In the original play, the newly widowed and poisonously proud Bernarda imposes eight years' mourning upon her daughters because this has always been her family's custom. The youngest daughter, disobeys, enjoys the handsome Pepe who is due to marry the eldest, then hangs herself when she believes her mother has shot him. For everyone left in the house, life, or death-in-life, will go grimly on.

The dreadful, stupid repressions unfold with a kind of grandeur, none of which survives an assault by red noses. Some attempt is made to suggest the imprisoning fastness of the house by miming the closing of shutters and the drawing of bolts, but this is undercut by the ease with which the daughters steal from room to room after nightfall while their mother, played by Renée Samuelsson, sits slumped on a chair.

The chains that bind them, incidentally, are shown for real in this version, tangling the characters up something chaotic, but from start to finish the purpose of the enterprise is unclear. The clowning does not work as an alternative route into the story, nor does it creatively deconstruct the mythic elements to suggest what might have been churning around in Lorca's mind at the time.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Sanity on spin cycle

The People Show 101
BAC, Battersea

WE MIGHT be in a laundromat in space. Then again, it could be a subterranean asylum for mad scientists. An old industrial washing machine, featuring mysterious pressure gauges, confronts us. The drum is spinning behind its porthole. A steel ladder is glimpsed, presumably leading to other decks. Whisked by on a rotating clothes rail is a ghostly, growing crowd of laundered shirts, nighties and lab coats.

Next the whole contraption rolls around, revealing a cranky lab-cum-dry-cleaners in which white-welld, endlessly spraying and ironing, run through chemistry-based catechisms (perversely responding to the answers with the questions). They repeatedly chant: "There are vistas never dreamt of, there are glories never known."

Well, I was not much the wiser by the end of The People Show's 101st experimental piece, a low in this year's festival. This long-established avant-garde company has churned out a scrappy piece, abstrusely depicting religious cults. The men in the strange laboratory confess to kinky fantasies. Women get inexplicably pregnant. Both sexes are symbolically stained, slipping into exotically coloured robes. They commit suicide or are initiated into another life, exiting through the washing machine's dark mouth and re-entering, in white, down a funnel.

The action is littered with iconographic images of birth, death, purification. A billowed sheet settles on the head of an instant Madonna. Shorn Mark Whitelaw, entwined in silk, "floats" on someone's back.

The set is fun, the occasional image striking. Meanwhile, however, the archetypal images amass but go nowhere, the characters hardly develop and the acting is wobbly with the exception of naively smiling, cracked Christine Entwistle. When the sound effects, a mess of galactic crackles, chopper blades and the *Moonlight Sonata*, obscure the dialogue, at least you can be certain you are not missing much.

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS Opening night for the new production of the 1936 film, directed by Louis Malle, at the Barbican. The film tells the story of a group of children who survive the Nazi occupation of Paris. It is a masterpiece of French cinema, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the Second World War.

NYMAN'S BACK Michael Nyman returns with his new opera, *Les Enfants du Paradis*, at the Barbican. The opera is a re-imagining of the 1936 film, and features a cast of talented young performers. It is a powerful and moving work, and a must-see for anyone interested in contemporary opera.

SAISON ET DALLA A new production of the 1936 film, directed by Louis Malle, at the Barbican. The film tells the story of a group of children who survive the Nazi occupation of Paris. It is a masterpiece of French cinema, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the Second World War.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by KIS Anderson

10.15-11.15 **THEATRE** *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm.

11.15-12.15 **THEATRE** *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm.

12.15-1.15 **THEATRE** *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm.

MANCHESTER

DAVID JENNY turns out as the hypochondriacal gag-writer in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, which plays the matinee at the Grand Theatre. Directed by Benjamin Tardif, the play is a hilarious and moving work, and a must-see for anyone interested in contemporary theatre.

PRESTON The excellent children's Unicorn Arts Theatre takes a version of *The Magic Flute* on the road. It is a beautiful and moving work, and a must-see for anyone interested in children's theatre.

LONDON GALLERIES *Barbican* Daphne, Director of the British Museum, 1936. *Barbican* Daphne, Director of the British Museum, 1936. *Barbican* Daphne, Director of the British Museum, 1936.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Seats at all prices

BAC Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11. *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm. (1936) Barbican, 7pm.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Triumph of a play by J.M.W. Turner, directed by J.M.W. Turner, at the Barbican. The play is a masterpiece of English drama, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the English theatre.

THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA A new production of the 1936 film, directed by Louis Malle, at the Barbican. The film tells the story of a group of children who survive the Nazi occupation of Paris. It is a masterpiece of French cinema, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the Second World War.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films to London and (where indicated with the symbol \otimes) on release across the country

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (19) Crest: a play for a woman writer of the 1930s. It is a masterpiece of English drama, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the English theatre.

HEAT (15) LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crook. It is a masterpiece of American cinema, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the American cinema.

THE INNOCENT SLEEP (15) Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. It is a masterpiece of British cinema, and a must-see for anyone interested in the history of the British cinema.

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Box Office Collect

OLIVER
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A whale of a lesson

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) 6.00
News Bulletin, incl. 6.00
10.15 Farming Today 6.25
Today, and 6.30, 7.00, 7.25,
8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25
Sports News 7.45 Thought for
the Day 8.40 Yesterday in
Parliament 8.55 Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Call West Coast:
0771-580 444

10.00-10.15 News, Crimetimecas
9.15-9.30 News, incl. 9.15
the Garden City of Glasgow
with the crime novelist
Salvatore Maranzitto (5/8)
9.30-9.45 The Servant 9.45
11.15 The Soapie's tale (LW only)
9.30 Women's Hour, introduced
by Jenni Murray
9.45-10.00 News, presented by
Geoff Watts

10.00 News: You and Yours
9.55pm World of Mouths. What
happens when the name of a
product means different
things in different languages?
12.00 12.55 Weather
10.00 The World at Large
10.00 The Archers (1.55
Shipping Forecast

10.00 News: Space Relations: Take
Me to Your Leader. Dr John
Gribbin discusses the
paradoxes of creating a
convincing alien (3/4)

10.30 Kaleidoscope (5/10). The
comedy actor Brian Haines
looks out his open
repertoire and his association
with the European Union
Youth Orchestra (1)

10.00 News: A Punkish Punk, Ray
Brown meets a poet and son
who run a junk shop
News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Paul Vaughan presents
reviews of books, touring
by August Wilson at the

Tricycle Theatre, and *Children
of Darkness and Light*, a
play by Nicholas Wright
about sightings of the Virgin
Mary in Cumberland

4.45 Ship's Story: Albatross
Moon, written and read by
Jeff Nye

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast
5.55 News 2

6.00 Sir O'Clock News
6.30 Any Other Business. Sit-
com by Lucy Flannery about
the problems of a small
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 File on 4. Mark Whitaker

8.00 Science Now, presented by
Peter Evans
8.30 The 1996 Rethink Lectures -
James Lovelock (5/6) (1)
Lecturer Interview, Sea
Choice

9.00 In Touch. Peter White with
news, views and information
for the visually impaired

9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55
Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with
Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Love in
the Time of Cholera, by
Gabriel Garcia Márquez
(2/3)

11.00 Melodrama. The week in
the media (1)

11.30-12.00 The Street (FM only)
The Forum, the Barbican
the second of six programmes (1)

11.45 Today in Parliament (LW
only)

12.00 News, incl. 12.27am Weather
12.30 The Little Boat: The
Drowned World. A. B. Yarwood
Farrell reads J. B. Ballard's
classic adventure, abridged
by Oliver Reynolds (7/10)

12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As
World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1 FM 97.9-99.0, 8.2. FM 88.0-
90.0, 8.2. RADIO FM 90.2-92.4, 1. RADIO 4 93.8-95.0, LW 198, 2. FM 88.0-
90.0, RADIO 1.55 FM 693, 90.0, WORLD SERVICE 90.45, LW 198, LW
198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO 103, LW
198, 5.55, MW 1197, 1215, TALK RADIO UK MW 1053, 1080, Television
and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mazzy.

No messing about with the sport of princes

A millionaire is what a billionaire becomes after about five years in sailing, an activity never better described in its British context than as the equivalent of standing under a shower tearing up £20 notes.

Nothing daunted, those of us who go down to the sea in ships, only to find the ship's engine will not start, know ourselves to be part of a great tradition: heartily long-suffering are our wives.

Given that hardly does yet another marina declare itself open before every berth is occupied by gleaming evidence that experience is no match for hope, television is miserly in its exploitation of this island race and its love of the sea.

So *Classic Ships* (Channel 4) would be a welcome series even if it was not much good. Happily it is much better than that and began last night with *Britannia*: not the beautiful *Britannia* that the foot-

ling nitwits who run our affairs now deem redundant, but the even more beautiful *Britannia* that was the first Royal Yacht, launched in 1893.

That *Britannia*, a seminal concept that still influences yachting, was a magnificent creature built for the Prince of Wales. He raced her with spectacular success until an encounter at Cowes with Monty Python would have been hard put to invent. The same race meeting was attended by the German Kaiser but you could easily tell the two apart: whereas the Kaiser spoke perfect English, the Prince of Wales had an almost impenetrable German accent.

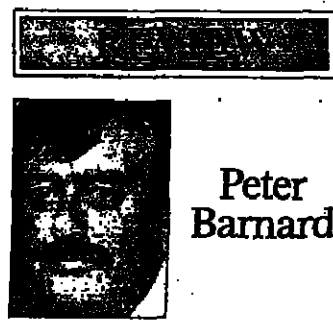
The Kaiser insulted one of the Prince of Wales's mistresses (one off). Yes, but there were no tabloids then. The Prince went off in a huff, taking his *Britannia* with him. The boat was not raced again for 25 years.

Which was a pity, for by then

people with even ghastlier accents than the Prince of Wales, known as Americans, were developing new-fangled yachts made of steel and alloy. But the dye was cast and *Britannia* had cast (in the vessel way) Hart-Davis into the era of yachting and set light to a passion for sailing.

Of course not every Briton spends every spare moment smiling like an idiot at the matchless sound of a diesel engine ticking over as if Mozart had turned up on the quayside with a full orchestra. There are deluded souls who would rather spend their spare time trying to start the car.

The series *Trade Secrets* (BBC2) is part of a relatively recent trend in television which involves ten-minute programmes that is to say, programmes run at their natural length rather than dragged out to 40 minutes or an hour.



Peter Barnard

Last night's was to do with cars and featured a string of mechanics and even a couple of normal people giving little bits of advice.

To meet all eventualities one's car boot would need to contain a large brick, quantities of silver paper, several jubilee clips and an empty drinks can, but some tips involved no materials at all.

For example, if you happen to leave the lights on for a few hours

and flatten the battery, did you know that if you switch off the lights and leave the car for 20 minutes it will probably start? Well there you are. And (topical section) if the door lock is frozen try heating up the key with a lighter or a match. If you don't have either, find a smoker: we are always delighted to meet someone who still needs us.

The large brick? I knew you would ask. The brick is for removing wheel nuts. You place the wheelbrace over the nut and rest the handle of the brace on the brick. You stand on the centre section of the brace. Soon you will hear a gratifying crunch. If the wheel nut has not moved, your ankle is broken.

I particularly wanted to review *Horizon: Nature's Numbers* (BBC2) because it was a programme about the environment that promised not to mention the ozone layer or global warming.

Instead it was about species: how fast are we wiping them out? Answer: come there, none. I tracked dutifully through the Amazon rainforest behind a party of biologists and the like. From time to time one of them plunged into the undergrowth and emerged with a bat or a lizard or a frog which they put in a bag.

The consensus seemed to be that there is no consensus. Or rather, the consensus among field workers that we are wiping out species at a terrible rate is challenged by a consensus among statisticians that we are not. This does more for argument than it does for enlightenment.

What I wanted to challenge was the statement that species can be counted. What, all of them? The counters say that they can count every living thing in an area, reaching conclusions based on the Species/Area

Curve, developed 30 years ago when two scientists counted all the species on a Florida mangrove island, then had them all wiped out by an American, a sort of one-man Kentokil, and then waited. All the species returned.

Next, they reduced the size of the island with a pair of shears (I may have invented the shears) and found that for every 50 per cent reduction in the land area, you reduce the species by 15 per cent.

How can they be sure? If you were a species that saw a pair of shears chopping in your direction, would you, er, stand up to be counted? What about the species that had gone away on holiday? And the ones that had gone to school inside a tree?

All of which is a convenient excuse not to worry about the environment until such time as all the loopholes are closed, a status which is several hundred *Horizons* away.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (61924)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (29437092)

9.10 Kilroy (s) (2573653)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (425014) 10.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (6710740)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (42721)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6856721) 12.05pm Pebble Mill (s) (5094127) 12.50 Regional News and weather (1379382)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (95382)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (4688108)

1.50 Benbow (2145633)

3.05 Timekeepers (s) (5228837)

3.30 Arts in Your Pants (s) (1522108) 3.50 ChuckleVision (s) (1535672) 4.10 Free Willy (Ceefax) (s) (781935) 4.35 Run the Risk (Ceefax) (s) (682837) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (s) (605705) 10.10 Orange Hill (Ceefax) (s) (7181450)

5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (625450) 5.45 Inside Usher (s) (s) (2301)

7.30 EastEnders. David agrees to pay for Bianca's wedding (Ceefax) (s) (127)

8.00 Great Outdoors. With only six beds in the unit, every day is a juggling act for the staff of the rheumatology department. (Ceefax) (s) (6721)

8.30 Ned of Kin. Maggie, Andrew and the children go on holiday but the only way they can afford to go to France is to go camping. (Ceefax) (s) (7856)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5856)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly. Why has Deborah agreed to spend the night with Tony? (Ceefax) (s) (16617) WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out (16617)

10.00 The X-Files. Cuckoo. FBI agents Mulder and Scully investigate the paranormal. (Ceefax) (s) (193905)

10.40 Inside Story. Caroline's Baby - Update. Since September 1994 Caroline Beale has been a prisoner in New York, accused of murdering her newborn baby and trying to smuggle the body through JFK airport. The film follows the Caroline and her prosecution lawyers and Caroline herself as they all prepare for court. (Ceefax) (s) (14301) N.I.: 10.40 On Air 11.30 Inside Story 12.55pm Film: Hound of the Baskervilles 1.50 Weather WALES: 10.40 Men Behaving Badly (736759) 11.05 Inside Story (519030) 12.00am Film: A Chorus Line (578764) 1.55 News and weather (270786)

11.55 FILM: A Chorus Line (1985) Musical starring Michael Douglas. A group of hopefuls audition at a Broadway theatre for a new show. Directed by Richard Attenborough (Ceefax) (s) (149568)

1.30am News (2778851)

VideoPlus+ and the VideoCodes. The numbers next to the VideoCodes are the numbers next to the VideoCodes. VideoPlus+ numbers which allow you to programme your VCR to record the programmes you want to watch. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video recorders. For more information on VideoPlus+ and the VideoCodes, see the VideoCodes section of the VideoCodes. VideoPlus+ and the VideoCodes are trademarks of General Development Ltd.

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BBC2

6.00am Business and Work

7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (581127)

7.15 Lasse. (s) (581905) 7.40 Teenage Mutant Turtles (s) (708318) 8.05 Blue Peter (s) (Ceefax) (s) (482676)

8.35 The Record. Yesterday in Parliament (s) (9222011) 9.00 The History Man visits Little Moreton Hall (s) (6172721)

9.05 Daytime on Two Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (6719011)

2.00 Juniper Jungle (s) (s) (86287547)

2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (525180)

3.05 News (Ceefax) and weather: Westminster with Nick Ross (788524)

3.55 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5841547)

4.00 Today's Day. History quiz (s) (556)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (740)

4.50 EastEnd. Esther Rantzen chairs a studio discussion on the pros and cons of mass immunisation (s) (7476)

5.30 The Village. A fly-on-the-wall account of life in Bentley, Hampshire (932)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Teen comedy series starring Will Smith (s) (834769)

6.25 Heartbreak High. Drama series about an Australian inner-city high school. (Ceefax) (s) (592160)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show. Cartoon series featuring a teeny chihuahua and his friend. (Ceefax) (s) (287295)

7.30 Local Heroes: Northern Ireland. (Ceefax) (s) (768)

8.00 Pound for Pound. The financial magazine looks at some schemes designed by travel companies to tempt you to buy their unsold holidays. (5363)

8.30 Food and Drink. Michael Barry prepares a pasta margherita. Jilly Gooden tastes instant soups and Jacqueline Dimbleby visits the monks and nuns of Belmont Abbey. (Ceefax) (s) (5496)

9.00 Whistler? Happened to the likely Laddie? Classic comedy with Rodney Bewes and James Bolam (s). (Ceefax) (s) (3488)

9.30 The House: Foot Fault. (Ceefax) (s) (159127)

10.20 The History of a Role-Play. Silver Shadow from a London showroom to the hard standing of an HGV driver's council house. (Ceefax) (s) (385837)

10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (s) (70479)

11.15 The Larry Sanders Show. American comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (544740)

11.40 Seinfeld. The first of a two-part comedy story featuring Jerry's father. (Ceefax) (s) (265059). Followed by Weather

12.05am The Midnight Hour with Lesley Fiddes. Political chat show (s) (5756677)

12.30-6.00 The Learning Zone

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HTV

6.00am GMTV (2377924)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (4820818)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5796160)

10.00 The Time... The Place (s) (1577855)

10.35 This Morning (5771856)

12.30pm Regional News (Teletext) (5852905)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (5166127)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (6141818) 1.20 High Road (Teletext) 1.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (1565611) 1.30 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (4003837) 3.20 News (Teletext) (2748011)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2747382)

3.30 The Magic House (s) (2578769) 3.40 Tots TV (s) (7152082) 3.50 Bugle the Little Helicopter (s) (2572585) 4.05 Tiny Toon Adventures (s) (5947721) 4.30 Come Zone (s) (Teletext) (4942127) 5.00 Antennas (s) (Teletext) (4942127)

5.10 Animal Court (5858092)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (425547)

6.00 Home and Away. Dodge escapes yet again. Damien decides to enter the blood test. It reveals a one in 130 chance that the child will have Down's syndrome. Although the odds against may seem overwhelming, in medical terms this is a more than average risk. Cope's next option is to abort the baby. But what if she could tell her the fate of her baby. But it could cause her to miscarry. In relating the stories of the Copes, and other couples facing the same dilemma, the film reveals the paradox that giving patients greater information and choice can actually increase their anxiety. And the limits of medical knowledge are cruelly underlined by the case of a woman who gave birth to a Down's syndrome baby after the blood test showed that she was virtually in the clear. Understandably, her anxieties are even greater when she becomes pregnant for a second time.

The House: Foot Fault. (Ceefax) (s) (159

BBC and ITV split European championship

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND versus Scotland, the most eagerly awaited match of the European football championship and the oldest international fixture in the world, will be shown exclusively by BBC on June 15.

As the public debate about Sky's increasing domination of leading events continues, BBC and ITV will be showing live all 31 matches in the quadrennial tournament, the biggest sporting occasion to take place in Great Britain since the 1966 World Cup.

The European Broadcasting Union has paid a record £44 million for the television rights.

The two British terrestrial companies are expected to spend a total of £10 million between them for their share of the rights and the costs as joint-host broadcasters. Sky will have only news access to the competition.

After BBC and ITV had negotiated to split the matches, the commercial channel secured both England and Scotland's final group games, which will decide whether they reach the quarter-finals. On June 18, England play Holland and Scotland meet Switzerland.

ITV will also show both home countries' opening games, England versus Switzerland on June 8 and

Scotland against Holland two days later.

For the quarter-finals, BBC will have the first and third choice of the four games and ITV will get the second and fourth. The agreement by the two channels not to duplicate coverage will last at least until the semi-finals.

If either of the home countries reaches the last four, then both channels will want to show the games live. However, if both England and Scotland have already been knocked out, then the allocation of the two semi-finals will be settled on the toss of a coin. Both BBC and ITV will show the final live on June 30.

Should England be playing in the final, then the record audience for a sports broadcast in Britain could be broken. This is 25.2 million for the World Cup semi-final in 1990, when West Germany beat England on penalties, with 16.69 million people watching on BBC and 8.52 million on ITV.

Brian Barwick, the head of production for BBC TV sport, said yesterday that he was confident that the England-Scotland game would attract an audience of nearly 17 million. "With the first choice of the semi-finals, we fully expect to be following the home nations as the competition mounts into its exciting knockout phase," he said. He

pointed out that BBC viewers would also get the first look in the tournament at Germany, one of the favourites, and Denmark, the surprise winners in 1992.

Jeff Farmer, ITV's head of football, said: "We have negotiated a sensible arrangement with the BBC and I am delighted with ITV's package. We will kick off with the razzmatazz of the opening ceremony and England's vital first game, followed by Scotland's opener against Holland, the group favourites. We have then got exclusive live coverage of the two games which will probably decide if England and Scotland stay in the competition."

The BBC line-up will include Desmond Lynam, Gary Lineker, Trevor Brooking, Jimmy Hill and David Pleat, plus a commentary and reporting team headed by John Motson and Barry Davies. ITV has still to announce its team.

With 16 countries participating for the first time in the 36-year history of the event, more than 5,000 media personnel will cover Euro 96. The event will be televised by 130 countries across the world.

Financially, the competition is already more profitable than the previous record for any British sports event — the 1994 and 1995 Wimbledon championships, both of which made £27.9 million.

The European television rights were sold for £44 million while the primary sponsorship and television rights for the rest of the world went for £24.4 million. Ticket sales already exceed 500,000 in Britain alone, bringing in £14 million. The sale of seats at Wembley for England's group games is now "approaching" the allocation for the host country.

The FA, which is running the tournament for Uefa, will spend £15 million on staging the competition and, provided the stadiums are, on average, 80 per cent full, it too will begin to make a profit.

African Cup review, page 40

FA prepares to discuss England offer to Robson

By DAVID MADDOCK AND LOUISE TAYLOR

THE name of Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, will carry a familiar ring around the corridors of Lancaster Gate by the end of what promises to be a momentous week in his career.

Yesterday, Robson was found guilty of the first disrepute charge that he has faced in a 22-year professional career. Today, his name will be taken in a different vein — his will be prominent among those discussed by the men invested with the task of appointing a successor to Terry Venables, the England coach.

After a meeting of the 15-man Football Association international committee, a sub-committee comprising five of the FA's great and good will hear a representation by Jimmy Armfield, their adviser, and sift through the serious candidates for the position that will become vacant after the European championship finals in June. By the end of the afternoon, the sub-committee, led by Sir Bert Millichip, the chairman of the FA, will have arrived upon the name it believes is the most suited to continuing the work started by Venables. Robson is a strong favourite.

He is unlikely, however, to be unveiled as the next England coach by this evening. The sub-committee will decide upon its man — whoever he may be — and then attempt to persuade him to accept its offer. With so many of the leading candidates insisting that they are not interested, it promises to be a laborious process.

Whatever the outcome, Robson will no doubt prefer the events of this afternoon at Lancaster Gate to those of yesterday. He was not present to hear that he had been found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute and fined £750

after an incident after Middlesbrough's fixture at Blackburn on December 16.

A spokesman for the FA revealed that the offence came when Robson hurled unsavoury comments at Paul Danson, the match referee, in the tunnel after the match. Neil Cox and Nigel Pearson, Middlesbrough players, were also found guilty of making abusive remarks to the official and were fined £500 apiece.

Robson was incensed after the referee had dismissed Derek Whyte, the Middlesbrough centre half, for his second bookable offence in the closing stages of the match.

Manchester United are to appeal against a £20,000 fine by the FA for an illegal approach to David Brown, the Oldham Athletic associated schoolboy forward. Two weeks ago, United were found guilty of the same offence involving Matthew Wicks, of Arsenal, but escaped punishment when the son of the former Chelsea defender, Steve, returned to Highbury. In the latest case, United must pay the hearing costs and agree compensation with Oldham for Brown, 17, whose signature could eventually cost up to £100,000.

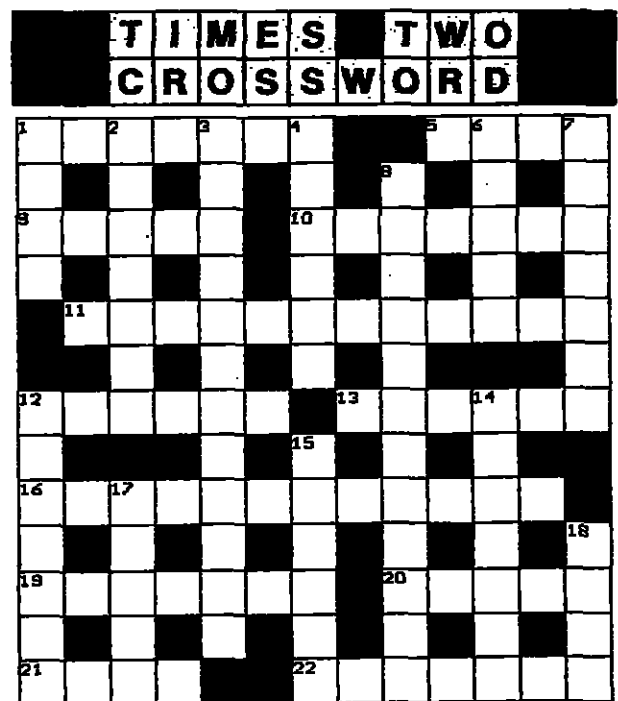
Robson, in his Middlesbrough role, yesterday secured the services of Branco, the Brazil defender. Robson sees his new signing serving a dual purpose, occupying the left back position, which has proved a weak link in his side all season and acting as a soulmate for Juninho, who is taking time settling on Teesside.

Branco, a World Cup winner with Brazil two years ago, has played in three World Cups, losing his international place only to Roberto Carlos, of Internazionale, in the past two seasons. Ironically, Robson spent last weekend in Milan attempting to sign Carlos, but had a £6.3 million offer rejected by the Italian club.

Branco, 31, will arrive on a free transfer, although his wages are likely to be exorbitant — having bought his own contract after recently leaving Internacional, of Porto Alegre, in Brazil. A holder of 70 international caps, Branco — full name Claudio Ibrahim Vaz — has also played for Genoa and Brescia in Italy, FC Porto in Portugal and Fluminense of Brazil. He agreed to join Robson after declining overtures from the Major Soccer League in the United States.



Branco: dual purpose



No 691

ACROSS

- 1 Crucial (7)
- 5 Carl —, broke with Freud (4)
- 9 Froth of surf (5)
- 10 Greek fertility goddess (7)
- 11 Senior officer (of each service) (5,2,5)
- 12 Rolled-up parchment (6)
- 13 Unfulfilled; would-be (Fr.) (6)
- 16 Exaggerated ill-health (12)
- 19 Meant information (3-4)
- 20 Heave; sounds like poor chap (5)
- 21 Stratagem (4)
- 22 Nationality of Dalai Lama (7)

DOWN

- 1 Bunch of flowers (4)
- 2 Coupon (7)
- 3 Genuine article (3,4,5)
- 4 Salop market town (6)
- 6 Extreme; an extremist (5)
- 7 Tall savanna ruminant (7)
- 8 (Robbery) from shop window (5-3-4)
- 12 Pupil; learned person (7)
- 14 Work for five players (7)
- 15 Fourteen-line poem (6)
- 17 Welsh county: John Cowper (5)
- 18 Avoid; mil. command (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 690

ACROSS: 1 Hard as nails 8 Tough 9 Capture 10 Hoax
11 Gershwin 13 Debate 14 Compel 17 Arpeggio 19 Crab 22 Thin air 23 Alert 24 Mother's ruin
DOWN: 1 Hatch 2 Rhubarb 3 Ache 4 Nickel 5 Impostor
6 Squaw 7 Kernal 12 Suggest 13 Dearth 15 Parvenu 16 Pierce 18 Prawn 20 Baton 21 Sways

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Bedford sits in front of the Cutty Sark at Greenwich, past which the London Marathon competitors will run during the race in April

Marathon man urges caution

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID BEDFORD, the elite race director of the Flora London Marathon, yesterday urged Great Britain's Olympic marathon selectors to exercise caution this weekend when they meet to discuss the team for Atlanta. Bedford believes that only Peter Whitehead, fourth at the world championships last year, should be picked now and that the selectors should wait until after the spring marathons, notably in London and Boston — before deciding who should fill the five other places.

Bedford is also confident that a sponsored national endurance squad will be in operation by May, helped by London Marathon money. Britain's distance runners, lacking any substantial funding, struggle against other European countries, that are paying their athletes and providing training support.

It is more by individual dedication than any structured back-up from the British Athletic Federation (BAF) that Britain has an Olympic selection dilemma based on nine athletes qualified and only six places available — three each for men and women — but without a man under 2hr 10min or a woman under 2hr 30min. "A large number of British runners are going to do spring marathons and it would be nonsense to select prior to those marathons," Bedford said.

"The Flora London Marathon is the British championships and, if the selectors intend that to have any status, it would make sense to wait. The one thing they would not want is for people to have good runs in spring marathons and then have to leave them out of the Olympics."

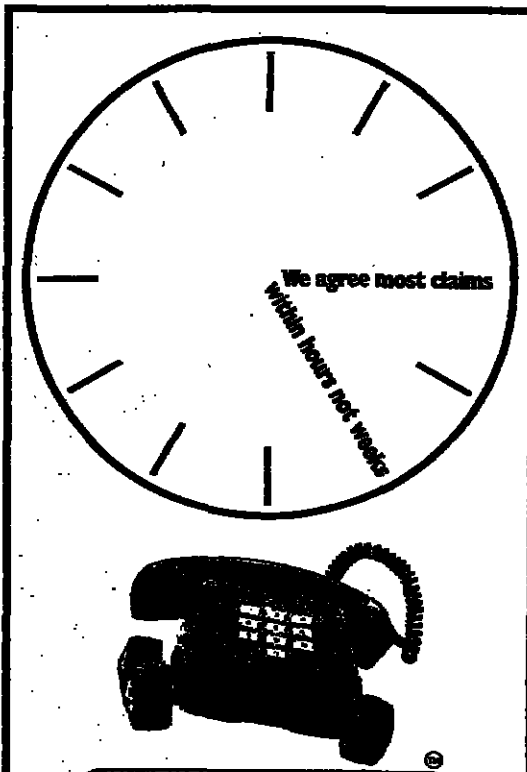
The selectors have given no indication how many athletes

they may pick when they gather this weekend.

Bedford said that £100,000 would be needed annually for an endurance squad "to have some impact". He added: "The London Marathon is working with BAF to come up with funding." The marathon's ability to contribute has been helped by its new sponsor. Flora's marathon budget is £6 million in its first year of a three-year agreement, more than provided by any previous sponsor.

Although names for the race on April 21 will not be announced until next month, Bedford said that the elite field this year would be "of a higher international quality" than ever before.

For the first time, the elite runners will have a transponder fitted to a shoelace, enabling faster and more detailed timing information to be relayed during the race.



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West Hull happy with cup draw

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WEST Hull, the first amateur rugby league side in 99 years to reach the last 16 of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, are justified in thinking that their odyssey might yet continue. Wakefield Trinity, albeit five-times winners, or Carlisle are not opposition to make the Conference team tremble.

After embarrassing York 10-6 at The Boulevard last Friday — Chorley were their first professional scalp in the previous round — Eddie Bennett, the West Hull coach, was optimistic about making further progress. "Wakefield certainly have not done too well recently; we're at home — that will do me," he said.

The fifth-round draw, made last night handed Wigan, the holders since 1988, an awkward task away to Salford, the first division champions, for whom Andy Gregory, the coach, will be hoping to upstage his former club. In a draw congested by 12 fourth-round postponements, Leeds, provided that they win at Swinton on Sunday, have an all-Super League clash at either Oldham or Warrington.

The new Paris club yesterday announced a squad of 26 for the Super League, which includes virtually the entire France national side, six Australians, a New Zealander, a Pole and a Moldovan. Training starts in earnest next week and the club's opening game

looks good for the start of Super League.

Pre-season matches against first division English opponents in early March will be a first opportunity to assess the strength of a side that is devoid of obvious star quality but which is not short on players. Among them, Patrick Entat, the captain, Daniel Divet and Frederic Banquet have all played in Britain.

Leeds's quest for a scrum half suffered a renewed setback yesterday with a failed attempt to sign Jason Ferris, of Canberra, although the announcement, today, of a ground-sharing arrangement at Headingley with Leeds rugby union club could extend to a sharing of players.

Tas Baltieri, the Paris chief executive, has refuted suggestions that his team is not sufficiently prepared for the task ahead. "It is an extremely strong squad and we are delighted that so many top French stars have decided to join us," he said. "It certainly